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OCT 2015
ISSUE 126
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| • Millenia Walk (MW) | Tel: 6311 9988 | |
| • OneKM (KM) | Tel: 6702 5220 | |
| • Raffles City (RC) | Tel: 6339 6777 | |

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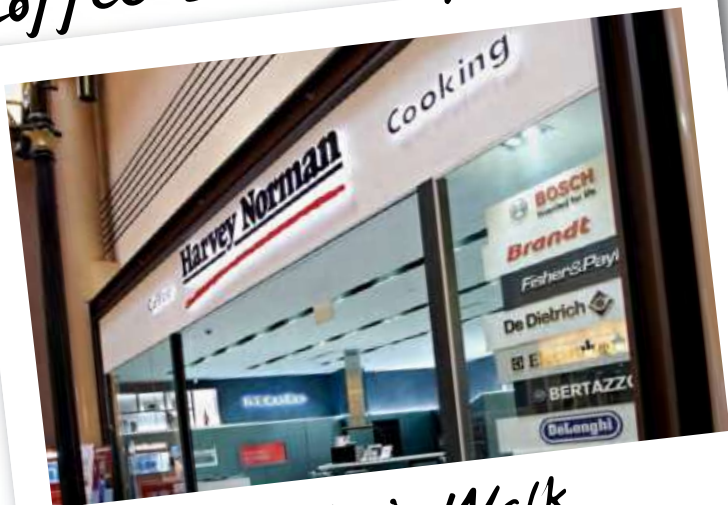
8 Heartland Stores

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| • Bukit Panjang Plaza (BPP) | Tel: 6767 1500 | • Northpoint (NP) |
| • Djitsun Mall (DM) | Tel: 6554 5630 | • Parkway Parade (PP) |
| • Hougang Mall (HM) | Tel: 6488 2305 | • West Mall (WM) |

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all *tastes*

Coffee & Concept Stores



Millenia Walk



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satisfaction.



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PHOTOGRAPHY Wong Weiliang

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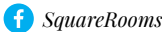
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Dulux

RENEWED PERSPECTIVE

As someone who is currently overseeing her home renovation, I am familiar with the frustrations that come attached with it. It is, after all, a huge commitment to something you have no control over. In between selecting materials, fixtures and fittings, there is also the overwhelming task of keeping the budget (and anxiety) in check.

After a few weeks of worrying, I have decided to adopt a more laissez-faire attitude. Perhaps it is thanks to my work at SquareRooms where I am exposed to wonderful home improvement ideas and solutions firsthand. In particular, the advice shared by interior designers and architects on renovation basics (page 34), has come in useful to address some of my home makeover concerns.

In this issue, we also recommend some essential furnishings for the home that will last for years to come (page 40) and find out all there is to know about using wallpaper to add loads of character to a space (page 56). And if you are confounded by all the latest home technology offerings out there, don't worry. We round up the newest home entertainment gadgets to help you create the entertainment zone you've always wanted (page 60).

I would also like to give a special shout-out to the homeowners who entered the inaugural SquareRooms Home Search competition. We had a hard time selecting the top three entries for the competition (page 118) because we saw so many beautiful homes. It is heartening to know that Singaporeans are a house-proud bunch. We hope that this issue of SquareRooms gives you even more ideas to spruce up your space!

Yours truly,

Jdene

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TRUE COLOURS

It's all about colour in Arro Home's new collection of soft furnishings. Swathed in hues like navy, cobalt, pastel pink and mint, the range welcomes new pieces like the Otto Cat cushion and a brand new colour option for their popular Round Eye cushion. In addition to new hues, Arro Home is also introducing new prints and patterns to their existing collections. Go back to school with Pie Graph, where geometric order meets bursts of vibrant shades, or if you prefer something more delicate, there's Cloud Blooms, which presents prints like spots, clouds, and flower blooms.

For more information, visit www.arrohome.com



Marvellous Marble

Bring up the level of elegance in your home with Brabbu's newest additions to their Agra family of furniture, where the pieces are crafted using white marble as the main material. Joining the dining table are a console and a display stand, set in the same natural stone with touches of brass to add a warmth to the polished surface. No two pieces are exactly the same, thanks to the different veins from the stone.

For more information, visit www.brabbu.com

CITY SLICKER

Bulgarian born designer Valentin Vodev has come up with the Vello bike, a high-performance, handmade bicycle specially designed for urban commuting. Its magnetic folding system enables the rear wheel to be brought forward with a rotary movement, without a need to bend the structure. It can be folded to half its size and wheeled along into small elevators or the public transportation system, while a foldable mudguard keeps your clothing clean in all weather conditions. To prevent theft, the bike is also branded with a personal codification system that is linked to the profile of the owner on the Vello website.

For more information, visit www.vello.bike





DOG BEATS

Shaped like man's best friend and accompanied by a remote control in the form of a bone, the AeroBull speaker (\$2,599) by Jarre Technologies meets both your style and sound needs. Producing 120W of HD aerial sound through a 2.1 system, the speaker connects to any smart device. It can also connect to CD players or other audio sources through line-in, and comes in three colour options: white, red and matte black.

Available at selected Best Denki, Surrender and Challenger stores

WATER WORKS

Wassertec's DS-6 mini water dispenser comes with a four-stage ultra-filtration system to get rid of impurities, chlorine and odours in water for a tasty and fresh drinking experience. The DS-6 also has a thermal insulation that keeps water hot, with the ability to continuously dispense 750ml of hot water. Designed to be sleek and space-saving, the dispenser has a length and width that is smaller than an A4-size paper and can be wall mounted or placed on a countertop without taking up too much room.

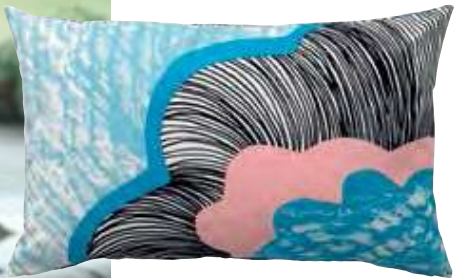
For more information, visit www.wassertec.sg



Made For You

Your kitchen is one of the busiest and most hardworking rooms in the home, so it's important to have a personalised space that is practical, convenient and works just for you. With this in mind, kitchen specialist KCUBE was launched to help you design a kitchen that fits your needs. Specialising in the creation of customised kitchens, KCUBE provides you with the total kitchen solution from design and installation to other service-related facilities. Choose from five different modular kitchen layouts, and design your units according to your material, colour, size and space specifications.

**Located at 25 New Industrial Road, #01-01 KHL Building,
tel: 6506 6917, www.kcube.com.sg, www.facebook.com/kcubesg**



October Debut

This month, IKEA is introducing a variety of new products for the entire home. One of the highlights includes a new customisable chair collection that lets you choose from different seat shells and under frames. There's also a new series of flexible pantry accessories for a more organised kitchen. Perhaps the collection we're most excited about is the new assortment of Scandinavian textiles that range from pastel to monochrome, and from playful to classical in style.

For more information, visit www.ikea.com/sg

HANDY HELPER

Clean a wider range of stains and spills with the multi-surface cleaner (\$4.95) by home-grown eco-friendly cleaning brand bio-home. Made from 100 per cent renewable plant-derived ingredients, this green product is rinse-free, quick-drying and offers a non-sticky feel. The multi-surface cleaner comes in a refreshing lemongrass and green tea scent.

Available at major supermarkets



WHAT'S COOKING?

Harvey Norman is organising a free cooking workshop with renowned local chef John See. Glean expert cooking tips, taste the chef's creations first-hand, and learn how to prepare a healthy full-course meal (appetiser, main course and dessert) through a cooking demonstration. But that's not all; you'll also get to test out the full range of built-in fixtures and kitchen appliances at Harvey Norman Millenia Walk. To make the deal sweeter, kitchen appliance brand Bosch is offering attendees exclusive deals for their appliances.

Event details

Date: Saturday, 31 October

Time: 2.30-5pm

Venue: Harvey Norman Millenia Walk, Coffee & Cooking Concept Store

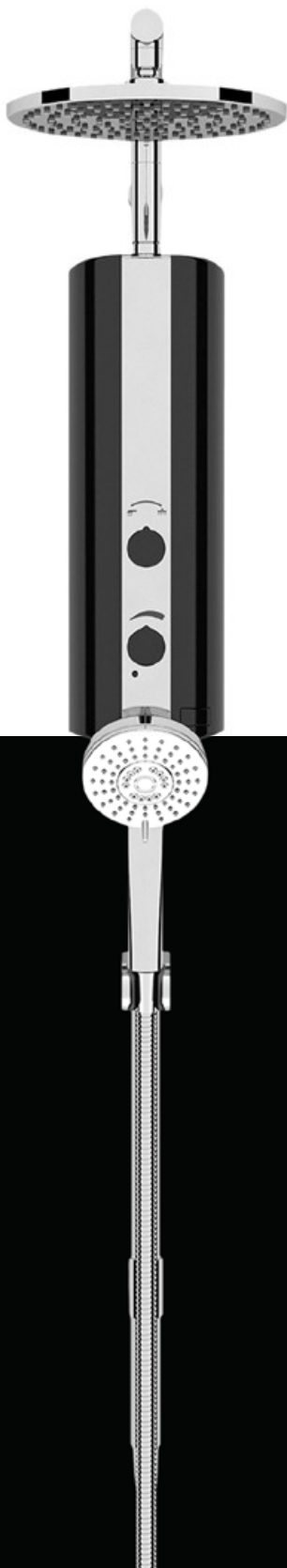


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Available at authorised dealers. For more information, visit www.ariston-heater.com.sg



Soothing Sanctuary

Having a day in the spa at your own home is no longer a pipe dream, not when you can have a luxurious bathroom with Kaldewei's Meisterstucke collection of free-standing baths and washbasins. Made from steel enamel, they are not only stylish in appearance, but also quick and easy to clean. The products are highly scratch-, abrasion- and impact-resistant, so they will stay beautiful for a long time to come.

For more information, visit www.kaldewei.com



THE ART OF PLAY

In celebration of its 20th anniversary, local furniture retailer Journey East has decided to work with Lanzavecchia + Wai, a creative, cross-cultural collaboration between designers Francesca Lanzavecchia and Hunn Wai, to launch PLAYplay. As its name suggests, the PLAYplay range of furniture is fun and playful but still completely functional. Decked out in cheerful hues, the pieces fit into almost every interior setting with its retro yet contemporary style. Their designs, proportions and functions were also carefully conceptualised for homes in this part of the world. Pieces include Pong (\$1,950), a dining table that doubles as a ping pong table and Bazaar (\$1,500), a work desk cum shelf inspired by food stalls found in night markets.

Available at Journey East, 315 Outram Road, #03-02 Tan Boon Liat Building, tel: 6473 1693, www.journeyeast.com





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into your home with
shades of orange*

TEXT & COORDINATION
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RAISE *the roof*

Take in a different perspective of the city and get away from it all at these elevated hangout spots

TEXT Jolene Limuco

WITH A NAME THAT MEANS “THIRD WIFE”

in Cantonese, it is rather appropriate that the interior of Sum Yi Tai conjures up images of moodily-lit private clubs found in Hong Kong.

The first thing that greets guests upon entering the Chinese Tapas Bar on the ground floor is a black dragon suspended from the ceiling. Further in is a wall lined with CD album covers from popular Cantopop artistes. These elements will no doubt arouse a sense of nostalgia from guests who grew up watching Hong Kong gangster movies. The scene is completed with a glass display of faux roast ducks at the back of the house.

While the lower floors of the establishment reminds one of the dark narrow dens of Hong Kong eateries – albeit modernised with luxe decor and decadent furnishings, the Private

PRIVATE
ROOFTOP BAR AT
SUM YI
TAI

Rooftop Bar presents a different atmosphere altogether. With the urban landscape of the Central Business District as a backdrop, the intimate space is strewn with rattan furniture, beautiful lamps adorned with classic Chinese ink paintings, and lovely glass-panelled dividers.



Crispy Roast Pork with Chili Oil Dip

With its dramatic atmosphere flanked by CBD skyscrapers, Sum Yi Tai's rooftop is the perfect place to strike a deal. The menu offered at the Private Rooftop Bar features classic Chinese nosh served in tapas-sized portions for sharing. These include crispy roast pork with chilli dip oil (\$12), maple honey glazed char siew (\$12) and XO carrot cake (\$12).

To wash down the bites, there are cheekily named cocktails such as Dai Lou (“big brother” in Cantonese, \$28) and Golden Dragon (\$19). The former is a potent concoction that contains bourbon, elderflower liqueur, cherries, oranges and bitters, served with an extra shot of bourbon in case you need a boost, while the latter is a mixture of gin, soda, syrup and lemon foam. For the adventurous (or the rambunctious) there is The Mysterious Yum Seng



Maple Honey Glazed Char Siew

Shot (\$80 for five shots). It is what it sounds like – a secret mixture of syrups and liqueurs that is guaranteed to get you buzzing. If you have more refined tastes, the extensive whiskey list offered by the glass, and categorised by countries and type, will satisfy.

Sum Yi Tai

25 Boon Tat Street
tel: 6221 3665

www.sumyitai.com

JUST A STONE'S

THROW AWAY

from Sum Yi Tai is another rooftop hangout – Tiger's Milk. Perched on the uppermost level of recently revamped hotel, The Club, the Peruvian-style stomping ground designed by multidisciplinary studio Distillery boasts a laidback vibe that feels far away from the frenetic pace of the nearby CBD. Consisting of an indoor area done up in vibrant orange, red and blue hues and an outdoor area dotted with rattan and wooden tables and chairs jazzed up with colourful Peruvian ikat rugs and

TIGER'S MILK



Photo: Justin Loh

cheerful cushions, the venue draws inspiration from the oldest pisco (South American-style brandy) bars in Lima.

With birds' eye views of the increasingly convivial Ann Siang Hill district, Tiger's Milk invites guests to shoot the breeze while enjoying Peruvian snacks and drinks. Think citrus-marinated seabass ceviche (\$14), grilled octopus and chorizo served with salsa and sweet potato (\$24) and lamb heart marinated with harissa paste and salsa

criolla (\$16). By the way, if you are wondering about the name Tiger's Milk, it refers to the Peruvian term "leche de tigre", the citrus-based marinade that cures seafood in a ceviche.

As you snack on authentic Peruvian cuisine – which is an amalgamation of Incan, European, Japanese, Chinese and West African flavours thanks to a large immigrant population over the years – wash it all down with pisco, brandy made by distilling grape wine into a spirit.

Tiger's Milk carries an array of pisco infusions developed by a team of mixologists. You can enjoy pisco as it is or in cocktails, such as Antigua (\$22), an Old Fashioned-style cocktail that combines pisco, Kyoho grapes and orange peel, and Coco Con Pisco (\$18), a refreshing drink of Campo de Encato Acholado pisco infused with pandan, Frangelico, Malibu, rock melon and kaya. The bar also offers fine and rare

tequilas and an extensive rum list. With its offerings of authentic South American flavours complemented by a cheerful ambiance and lively music, it is easy to feel like guests at a raucous South American fiesta at Tiger's Milk.



Classic Seabass Ceviche



Antigua

Tiger's Milk
28 Ann Siang Road
tel: 6808 2183
theclub.com.sg



WE'VE BEEN TO THE BUSTLING HUB OF Keong Saik many times but when we walked up to the rooftop of Potato Head Folk, it was as if we walked into a different neighbourhood. With a backdrop of the iconic Pinnacle @ Duxton rising above the terracotta roofs of the surrounding

THE
ROOFTOP AT
POTATO
HEAD
FOLK

shophouses, The Rooftop bar at Potato Head Folk is a hidden gem that feels far away from the hubbub of Chinatown.

Serving as Potato Head Folk's garden, The Rooftop is an extension of the hospitality and entertainment group's three-storey dining destination. Burger joint

Three Buns occupies the first and second floors of the conserved historical building, while an intimate bar called Studio 1939 occupies the third. It is at The Rooftop that invites guests to linger though. Stylish, peaceful and fabulously bohemian all at once, this chill-out spot is a riot of colours thanks to whimsical murals painted by Australian artist David Bromley. The vibe is decidedly casual thanks to a mishmash of garden furniture and



Po Lewa Lani

after the Tiki cocktail culture, which means that cocktails are made of flavoured syrups and fresh fruit juices mixed with rum to evoke tropical flavours.

banquet seating. As one of the few rooftop venues in Chinatown, it offers a chance to mingle and relax amidst fragrant herbs, exotic flowers and tropical plants, all while taking in views of the city.

The Rooftop is a bar designed



Mai Tai Roe Ae

With tipples (priced from \$18) such as Mai Tai Ro Ae, a concoction of Myer's and La Mauny rums, Dry Curacao, almond syrup and lime, and Po Lewa Lani, which is made with Havana Club Reserva and Banane de Bresil mixed with pineapples, pomegranate syrup, lime and sparkling wine, every sip promises to take the drinker on a mini holiday.

Potato Head Folk
36 Keong Saik Road
tel: 6327 1939
www.pttheadfolk.com



WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE NAME

“HELLO SANDWICH”? I wanted a Japanese-English style name. In Japan, you often see English expressions like “calorie off”, “level up” or “let’s lunch”. I wanted something that was fun like that. I also love sandwiches; and of course, it also references Hello Kitty!

WHY TOKYO? After so many holidays to Japan, I noticed that I felt alive here. From the people, food, design, and fashion to the craft, music, landscape and culture, I love everything about it. It’s very safe, and the Japanese are ridiculously polite. The fact that Tokyo is so crazy and surreal and so different to Sydney made it an extremely appealing place to move to.



TOKYO GUIDE This zine is Ebony’s first book, where she shares with readers over 150 fun places she frequents in Tokyo.

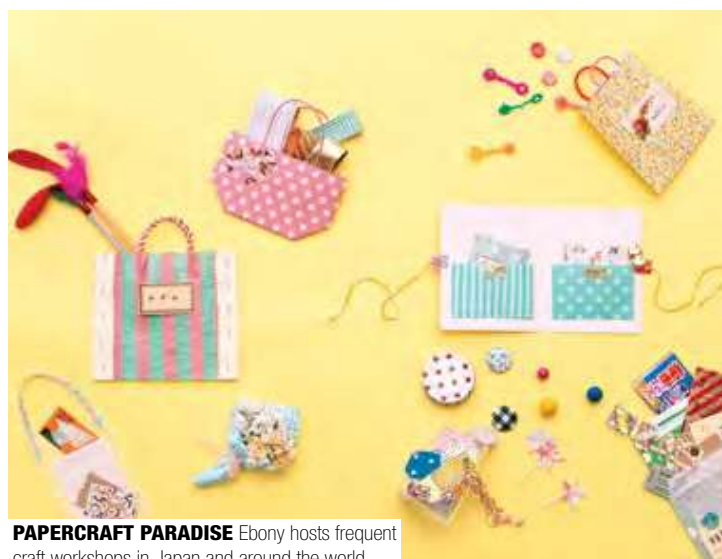


HELLO TOKYO Her latest publishing venture is a quirky guide to living a handmade lifestyle.

EBONY BIZYS, *Hello Sandwich*

Hello Sandwich began as a way to record the things that inspired artist and graphic designer Ebony Bizys. The blog has since evolved into a place to record her daily adventures in Japan. The talented Australian left her job at Vogue Living to move to Tokyo in 2010. She is now the author of two books, holds regular workshops, and travels around the world to share her love for her craft

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTOS COURTESY OF Hello Sandwich and BOCO



PAPERCRAFT PARADISE Ebony hosts frequent craft workshops in Japan and around the world.

PARTY ANIMAL Learn fun and easy tips to personalise your next event at the “Hello Party” session, one of the two workshops hosted by Ebony at The Little Drom Store.



CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT Her Fujifilm X20 camera.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE A LOT ON YOUR PLATE! WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?

I sometimes wish I could be bored, even if it's just for one day! I'm currently promoting my new book “Hello Tokyo” (a craft and lifestyle book), prepping for the workshops in Singapore, developing new Hello Sandwich products, working on artwork for an exhibition in Australia, planning another workshop in Miyagi later this year, preparing for the Tokyo Art Book Fair and also organising a workshop tour to Spain and France!

CRAFTING TIP FOR DIY HOMEOWNERS? Keep a Pinterest board or an old-school scrapbook of DIY and craft ideas that you'd like to try one day. Seeing them all together gives you a strong sense of what you like and helps you to combine different elements to create your own unique style.

FAVOURITE PRINT Ditsy florals.

HUE OBSESSION Metallic hologram foil... or coral! I always used to sneak in Pantone 107-3 into all of my layouts.

UNFULFILLED DESIRES I'd love to wear more bows, pearls, sequins and pastels, but alas, I'm no spring chicken anymore.

GUILTY PLEASURE Buying stacks of craft books or magazines from Aoyama Book Centre in Tokyo.

BEAUTY STAPLE I've been wearing MAC lipsticks for over 15 years! My favourites are “Lady Danger”, “Morange” and “Ruby Woo”.

Ebony is collaborating with local lifestyle retailer The Little Drom Store this month to host workshops on party styling and scrapbooking. Visit www.thelittledromstore.com for details.



Most of their pieces are retro-vintage inspired, like this retro square cabinet.

SEOUL *fun*

Seen a piece of furniture on the set of a K-drama? You might just find it at Born In Colour, which brings in quirky Korea-made furniture

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTOS Born In Colour

Venturing into Born In Colour feels like a breath of fresh air. Unlike your typical furniture store, there are no fancy shelving or decor. Rather everything is housed within a grungy warehouse space, but the store's collections speak for themselves. Cutesy, brightly coloured pieces sit among Scandinavian inspired furniture with their clean lines and silhouettes. For those who prefer a more classic look, there are retro-vintage and mid-century inspired furniture to choose from. One of their signature collections is the Macaron Family, a range of products like tissue boxes, storage cabinets and console sets that have smiling faces on



them. They are scattered throughout the retail space, so the store feels particularly cheerful.

Roy Tan, one of founders of Born In Colour, says of the decision to bring in these made-in-Korea furniture: "We wanted to tap into the popularity of the K-wave here. But it's also because Korean furniture really makes sense in our local context. Their minimalist style suits our palate and the size of their furniture caters to our small homes because apartments in Korea aren't very big."

Born In Colour was born from the discontent of a group of homeowners, who found the existing range of furniture in Singapore either too common or too expensive. Says Roy: "We started sourcing around for our own, and we came across this furniture supplier in Korea that carried products that were really different yet suited our tastes. Then we thought, why not bring them in so we can share them with everybody here?"



INSIDE STORY

- Many of the pieces they carry are vastly popular in South Korea, and can be found in the set design of popular Korean TV shows like Running Man.
- It's not just Korea-made furniture they're bringing in. Born In Colour plans to stock industrial style furniture from India within the next two months. Watch this space!



There's nothing impressive about the retail space, but we can't get enough of their charming furniture range!

Born In Colour

1024 Yishun Industrial Park A #02-37,
tel: 9009 3586, www.bornincolour.com.sg

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out of the ORDINARY

Unravel the story behind each product at The Beuro, which carries under-the-radar designer furniture from around the world

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTOS The Beuro



Juxtaposing rustic and industrial textures with clean and modern lines at The Beuro.



Browsing in this large, open-plan space is a relaxing affair.

There's a high chance you haven't seen or heard of the pieces at furniture store The Beuro before. This is because the retailer deliberately selects brands that are not too common. Brands in its 2015 collection include Thomas Bina, Frag, Loop & Co, and Delightfull, amongst others. Most of the names were spotted by owner and managing director Hadi Naishaburi and his team in major furniture fairs around the world. The brands they decide to bring in have one thing in common: a unique story



Delightfull is gaining clout with their retro-inspired lighting pieces.

behind them. "It's not about choosing the best furniture brand; I look at qualities that make each brand unique. And I believe in creating trends, rather than following them," says Hadi.

Hadi entered the furniture business in 2012, starting out with custom, bespoke pieces. It was only after coming into close contact with different brands at furniture fairs that the idea for The Beuro was born. Style-wise, there are little similarities among the curated collection, but that is precisely the intention. Hadi explains: "I feel that that the mixing of the brands would be artistic – where rustic and industrial meet modern and refined."

The store, which opened in June this year, is an expansive space at 11,000 square feet. Bright and airy – thanks to the large windows and tall ceilings – the showroom's open-plan layout makes it easy to move about. Customers are made to feel at home through different zones created here. There is a dining room, living area, reading nook, and lounging corner to simulate a real home setting. Complimentary coffee is served even if you are just here to browse.

INSIDE STORY

■ The Beuro is a wordplay on "bureau", a writing desk where people would note down their ideas and thoughts on paper and later file them in the storage sections within the table. Likewise, Hadi wants The Beuro to be where he develops his ideas for the furniture industry.

■ Thomas Bina was one of the very first brands that caught Hadi's eye, and also one of the more interesting. The brand produces artistic furniture pieces using salvaged woods from the Americas and combines them with metals to create one-of-a-kind products.



A Thomas Bina piece retains its material antiquity to exude a whole lot of character.

The Beuro

315 Outram Road

#03-09/10 Tan Boon Liat Building

tel: 6222 4500

www.thebeuro.com

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TALK OF *the town*

A prime location and well-thought-out designs make The Brownstone one of the most sought-after Executive Condominiums launched this year

TEXT Jolene Limuco PHOTOS City Developments Limited

“The Brownstone’s convenient location just beside the upcoming Canberra MRT station and its attractive pricing, offers significant upsides for homebuyers.”

Mr Chia Ngiang Hong,
Group General Manager,
City Developments
Limited (CDL)



PROPERTY NAME
The Brownstone

DEVELOPER
Canvey Developments Pte Ltd
(a joint venture between
City Developments Limited
and TID Pte Ltd)

LOCATION
Canberra Drive

ESTIMATED TOP DATE
2019

TENURE
99-year leasehold

NUMBER OF UNITS
638

SIZE (SQUARE FEET)
From 732 – 850



You know what they say in the property business – location is everything. That’s why The Brownstone Executive Condominium (EC) is garnering so much interest from prospective homebuyers. Sited right opposite the soon-to-be-completed Canberra MRT station on the North-South Line, the 638-unit development is located in between the established towns of Sembawang and Yishun. It not only boasts great connectivity to the city and other parts of the northern region, the development is also surrounded by a wide array of facilities and amenities. That’s why it is no surprise that when the EC was launched a few months ago, close to 30 per cent of the units were snapped up.

NEW YORK-STYLE LIVING

Named after the iconic brownstone townhouses that line the streets of downtown New York City, The Brownstone was designed for urban living. Comprising eight 12-storey blocks, the development offers a good mix of apartment types, with unit sizes ranging from 732 square feet for a two-bedroom unit to 1,711 square feet for a five-bedroom penthouse. Design wise, elements like textured brown sandstone facade with jetty balconies draw inspiration from New York’s charming brownstone row houses. The expansive jetty balconies do justice to the views; while at the same time extend the living space. Just as well because living in The

Brownstone warrants time spent outdoors thanks to lush landscaping from the ground up, with hanging bosque and living green walls reinforcing the verdant environment. On top of these landscaping features, the estate is also surrounded by extensive greenery of trees and fields, and views of the Lawn Vista.

FACILITIES FOR ALL

While The Brownstone is located near major shopping malls and recreational facilities, residents have the

added advantage of enjoying recreational facilities within the property. In the development’s verdant grounds, residents can take a dip in the pools, work out at the state-of-the-art gym or tennis court, and relax at the Jasmine Spa. Children can enjoy themselves at a junior skating rink and kiddie splash pool. There is also a Sky Deck where residents can gather for a barbeque or simply chill out. With its prime location, well-thought-out design and wide-ranging amenities, The Brownstone ticks all the boxes for ideal urban living. It is no wonder then it is becoming one of the most popular ECs launched this year.

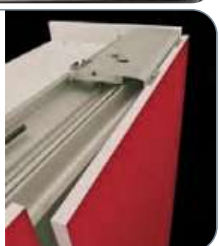




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LIVING ROOM

1 What are the top trends for living room designs at the moment?

In Singapore, the Scandinavian and eclectic looks are very popular at the moment because they not only look good, they are functional as well. - **RAYMOND SEOW, DESIGN DIRECTOR, FREE SPACE INTENT**

2 What are some tips for combining the living and dining rooms in one space?

With a combined living and dining room, you still want to create distinct spaces within the whole. You can consider grouping some of the furniture in the centre of the space without all of it being lined up against the wall. You'll avoid an unused, open space in the middle. Keep all of the furniture on the same scale or you'll create a lopsided effect and the rooms won't flow into each other.



Painting all the walls in the same colour so that the space flows may be another easy alternative. Or choose two colours and use both of them in different quantities in each area. The whole space should have the same type of flooring. Decorate with accessories in similar colours and use the same design style. - **DESIGN TEAM, DISTINCT IDENTITY**

3 WHAT ARE SOME TRICKS I CAN USE TO MAKE MY LIVING SPACE SEEM LARGER?

The easiest trick is to use mirrors. Place mirrors near windows to reflect light and double up your space. Another way to enlarge a space is to keep everything clean and minimal – use a white or neutral palette. For homeowners who don't need an extra room, I would also recommend hacking a wall between the living area and an adjacent room halfway to visually open up the space.

- **RAYMOND**





KITCHEN

1

WHAT IS THE KEY TO A WELL-DESIGNED KITCHEN?

It's all about balance. A well-designed kitchen contains a good mix of storage spaces and worktop spaces. In addition, the kitchen should have a well-organised spatial relationship between the cooking, washing and prepping zones, so that the space does not feel cramped.

– LEE CHI HO, DIRECTOR, THE ORANGE CUBE

Photo courtesy of IKEA

2 What are the top trends in kitchen design at the moment?

We are seeing a lot of homeowners going for the industrial and cafe-inspired looks because they are aesthetically pleasing and easy to emulate in the home.

– ACLESTER LIM, OWNER, HUE CONCEPT

3 What considerations should I take if I want an open kitchen?

First and foremost you may have to ask yourself if you love cooking and would be whipping up meals often. Are you a heavy user for instance? Should you

be cooking full dishes, there may be heavy smoke and oil stains and this would directly affect your other living spaces. A light cook, on the other hand, would have an easier time to manage the overall cleanliness.

– DISTINCT IDENTITY TEAM

4 Is there an on-trend colour I should go for in the cooking zone?

Designs in a softer colour palette and “beachy” looks in cabinetry look great, while adding different textures in flooring and countertops results in a look that is enduring and stylish.

– DISTINCT IDENTITY TEAM

5 What are the pros and cons of separating the kitchen into wet and dry zones?

Pros: Separate wet and dry zones equals clean and neat kitchen, as all the heavy cooking and preparations are done in the wet zone, and the dry zone is for light usage.

Cons: Extra space is needed to separate these two zones which means the space outside the kitchen may be compromised and extra cost is needed if walls need to be demolished.

– ACLESTER



Design by Distinct Identity



Design by Distinct Identity



Design by The Orange Cube

BEDROOM

1 What is the best way to keep a walk-in wardrobe organised?

Use hooks on the inside of cupboard doors to store accessories such as bags, ties, belts and scarves. All you need are a few hooks. Alternatively, you can pick up small metal rods (including tea towel racks) which you can attach to the inside of the door and hang items that way. If you have limited cupboard space but quite high walls, adjustable rods are a great idea. Simply move and slot in depending on what you're hanging. This ensures you are using the entire space of the wall or cupboard.

– DISTINCT IDENTITY TEAM

2 How do I make the most of a small bedroom if I want more storage space?

For children's rooms, how about using a bunk bed? It takes up less space. You can also custom build a bed frame with hidden storage underneath. Or buy drawers with casters to slide under a store-bought bed frame. If you have a bay window, you can also consider constructing a bed over the bay window, which helps you save on floor space.

– CHI HO

3 What are the best colours to use in a bedroom to make it more relaxing?

In recent years, neutral colours have become a real trend in bedroom arrangement. Bright or matte shades of cream, beige, brown are very popular. Neutral colours are a good choice for bedrooms especially because they can be successfully combined with almost any other colour. The best wall colours for the bedroom are blue, lavender, green tones and even pink tones if you want to create a relaxing and calm environment.

– DISTINCT IDENTITY TEAM

4 What are the pros and cons of curtains and roller blinds?

Roller blinds block out light with greater efficiency than curtains. They also take up less space and don't require regular cleaning. However, roller blinds may hinder the opening of some kinds of windows.

If done well, curtains are aesthetically striking and can give a room a soft touch. They come in a range of colours and patterns, so if you like to add colour to your room, curtains are great. On the other hand, curtains take up more space than blinds, making a room feel smaller.

– ACLESTER



Photo courtesy of The Secret Linen Store



Photo courtesy of IKEA

BATHROOM

1 What should I look out for when choosing floor and wall tiles for the bathroom?

Matte finish non-slip floor tiles are preferred in the bathroom as a safety issue. You can get creative with wall tiles with grain effects and patterns. However, if it's a small area, try not to have too much grain effects as it will make the area look cluttered and messy.

– ACLESTER

2 How can I make my bathroom room appear larger?

Use mirrors. Big and huge mirrors will give the effect of a spacious bathroom. The right kind of lighting is also a key factor to user experience in the bathroom. Bright lighting can actually make a small bathroom feel more spacious. – TRINA LIM, DESIGNER-PROJECT CONSULTANT, DARWIN INTERIOR

3 What are the pros and cons of water tanks versus instant water heaters?

Water tanks: Water tanks save electricity. A water tank uses approximately one-third the electricity of an instant water heater. Heated water in the tank can also be stored for 24 hours.

However, installing a water tank means that you'd have to wait for the water to



heat up before enjoying hot water in the bath. The tank may also be an eyesore in the bathroom as it is usually big and bulky. Water flow from tanks may be inconsistent as it is shared among other hot water points. Also, be careful of the tank leaving burnt marks on the ceiling over time. So be sure to install it further away from the ceiling.

Instant heaters: The most obvious benefit of using instant heaters is that there is no lag time to use hot water. It is also easy to change after prolonged use. However, instant water heaters consume high amounts of electricity. There are also limited choices when it comes with compatible rain showerheads. Another disadvantage with instant heaters is that the heat of the water may be inconsistent – sometimes it may be hot, sometimes, cold. – TRINA

4 How to I create more storage space in my bathroom?

Try to use every square inch of a tight space by constructing shower niches as well as installing cabinets under the sink and behind the mirror. – ACLESTER

5 WHAT ARE SOME ALTERNATIVES TO BATHTUBS FOR A SMALL BATHROOM?

You may consider walk-in bathtubs that come equipped with a door on the front or side of the bathtub. The door gives users the ability to enter the tub without having to lift their legs over the threshold.

Thanks to sealing on these doors, water stays in the tub and doesn't flood the floor. Fast draining capabilities are included with many of these tubs, so you don't need to sit in the tub too long for it to drain. Walk-in bathtubs usually require professional installation. The tubs can include a variety of features, including adjustable bubble jets, handrails, adjustable shower heads and inside-the-tub seating. – DISTINCT IDENTITY TEAM



Photo courtesy of Ganna Studio



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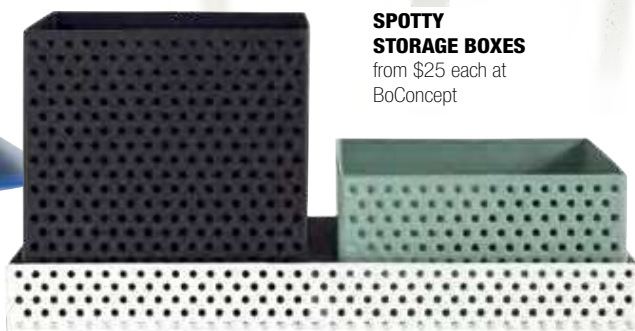
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Let there be light

From Bluetooth-enabled lighting to energy-saving decorative light bulbs, MEGAMAN has the perfect lighting solution for every room of your home

Within the interior design circle, it is well-known that lighting is a key element in making a home beautiful – akin to the finishing touch to the overall look and feel of a home. Lampshades and chandeliers directly affect the look of your space, but it is the light source that ultimately contributes to the mood of an interior.

Artificial light enhances the way we live and work. It provides safety, comfort and sometimes even makes our lives more efficient. For instance, using the right level of light in the kitchen allows us to create delicious and great-looking food.

For a wide variety of LED and Compact Fluorescent light sources, look no further than MEGAMAN. The lighting brand is committed to providing light sources that are

truly sustainable and energy-saving. With a range that includes smart lighting and mood-enhancing light sources, there is a perfect light bulb for just about any room.

Quality and innovation

MEGAMAN is the only major brand to have exclusively manufactured low-energy lighting products throughout its entire history, accumulating more than 20 years of industry expertise and innovation in the lighting market.

Established in 1994 with the offering of the successful production of CFL light sources, MEGAMAN has evolved to become a complete low-energy lighting solutions provider. The brand has built a solid reputation for producing high performance LED light sources that offer both homeowners and

interior designers true replacements for traditional halide and halogen equivalents.

MEGAMAN is now applying its market-leading experience to an even wider range of lighting solutions that includes revolutionary Smart Lighting control, a full range of components, and a suite of low-energy fixtures. Its range comprises over four hundred different high-quality light sources, including the MEGAMAN LED Reflector Series, which is the world's first true low-energy replacement for halogen lamps.

Smart ideas

MEGAMAN now offers a full suite of lighting solutions with the addition of several new fixture lines, for both indoor and outdoor lighting. In fact, the brand is committed to innovation and advanced research to ensure a continuous supply of new and exciting energy-saving light sources come to market every year.

The brand's latest offering is the Smart Control LED lamp called INGENIUM BLU. This new invention provides further energy-saving potential by giving users full lighting control via their smart phones and tablets.

Equipped with the latest Bluetooth 4.0 technology, the LED lamps are a step forward for smart living. Simple, stylish and intelligent, its advantages include easy installation without the need for wiring, availability of direct LED retrofit, wireless compatibility and precision scene setting to suit any mood. It can also be dimmed without using a dimmer, thanks to Bluetooth enabled technology.

Another one of MEGAMAN'S popular products is the Decorative LED Filament bulb that is designed to bring out the aesthetic appeal of decorative lighting fixtures. Available in the standard white casing, and 2700K and 2200K colour temperature casings, this series of LED Filament bulbs is especially great for exposed lighting fixtures that are all the rage right now. With high luminous efficacy of up to 98 lm/W, the LED Filament bulb adds elegance to any luminaire. The amber colour temperature version is designed to provide warm and harmonious lighting to create the right mood and ambiance.

Whether it is to create a space to stimulate efficiency or to set a mood, MEGAMAN has all the lighting sources you need.

MEGAMAN'S NEWEST INNOVATIONS



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Retail stores: All Home-Fix outlets, Gain City
Sungei Kadut & Big Box

HANG IN THERE

Why spend lots of money on a statement-making piece of wall art when a clutch of straws and some spray paint will do? Inspired by the Necker cube, this eye-catching decorative piece is made using straws stuck together with a glue gun. We then use a high gloss spray paint to give the piece a golden sheen.

Featuring Birdy table lamp, \$416, from Danish Design. Viva wide sideboard, \$1,923, Mix Me brass vase, \$61, and gold vase, \$29, from Kuhl Home.



STRAW
CRAFT

With a bit of imagination, drinking straws can be used to make beautiful decorative objects for the home. Here are 6 ideas for some weekend project fun



CRAFTWORK & ART DIRECTION Neo Aik Sing & Linda Setiono
PHOTOGRAPHY Justin Loh
SHOT ON LOCATION Danish Design Co & Kuhl Home



LETTER PRESS

Here's a fun way to display your initials. Start by drawing out the letter you want on a piece of paper. Then cut paper straws into lengths to fill in the letter. Once that is done, glue the straws into place. Let the glue dry completely then place the art piece into a frame.

Featuring Paper side table, \$492, and Pelican chair, from \$7,459, from Danish Design.

SIMPLE



ALL ABOUT THE VASE

Go green by reusing a tin can or an old jar. Simply cut patterned paper straws into equal lengths and stick them around the sides of the can with glue or double-sided tape. The result? A jazzed up decorative vessel for your plants or flowers!

Featuring Vista outdoor lounge, POA, and Bells side table, \$510, from Danish Design.



DESKTOP SCULPTURE

How's this for a geometric penholder that looks that it could be a piece of art? Using three bendable straws, we made a triangle by inserting one end of the straw into another. Then cut three more straws into equal lengths to form the body of the holder. Using PVA glue, stick the shortened straws to the three ends of the triangle to form an inverted pyramid. Secure the holder to a small Styrofoam cone, and glue the piece onto a box lid.

Featuring Arbor desk, \$1,591, Taste Mocca cup, \$23, and Stefy Square vase, \$14, from Kuhl Home.

SIMPLE

**BURST OF
DELIGHT**

Create your very own art deco sunburst mirror with this easy – and affordable – DIY project. Cut out a cardboard ring. Using a glue gun, stick straws around the ring evenly in a circle. Layer on shorter straws in different lengths for a three-dimensional effect. Leave to dry, and then secure a small mirror at the back before hanging your sunburst mirror on the wall.



Photo: Neo Aik Sing



GEOMETRY LESSON

To make your very own himmel ornament that is also functional, here's an idea: a hanging jewellery stand! Cut straws into four long, four medium and four small lengths. Thread some wire through the medium tubes to form a square. Then form a large pyramid for the top and a small pyramid for the bottom, and secure them to the square base by threading the wire through the straws.

Featuring AK2660 sideboard with corian top, \$6,620, and Design Letter porcelain cup, \$57, from Danish Design. Shining box in mint, \$35, from Kuhl Home.

PLAIN & SIMPLE

Less is more with these minimalist but striking pieces that speak volumes in a contemporary home

ART DIRECTION Neo Aik Sing & Linda Setiono PHOTOGRAPHY Justin Loh



SHIFT SHAPE
A neutral palette brings out the soft curves of home ware essentials to give them a sculptural quality.



1 Nut case, \$15.95, from CB2 2 Side table, \$455, from Foundry 3 Clock, \$10.90, from IKEA
4 Vase, \$12.90, from IKEA 5 Gym hooks, POA, from Foundry 6 Black dip platter, \$15.95, from CB2



ALL LINED UP

Who says plain is boring? Bold lines and unexpected details have a chance to stand out on unsullied foundations.

1 Cube clock, POA, from Foundry 2 Teapot, POA, from Foundry 3 LED work lamp, \$19.90, from IKEA 4 Black scissors, POA, from Foundry

Table surface: Laminate in Vicuna Graceful Oak from Formica



**NATURAL
SELECTION**
Channel Zen-like
composure with
wooden decor objects
in unusual shapes.

1 Juicer, POA, from Foundry 2 Tissue box, \$79, from Foundry 3 Incense holder, \$36, from Foundry
4 Pencil holder, \$38, from Foundry 5 Clock, POA, from Foundry 6 Wooden pyramid, \$31.50, from CB2
7 Bamboo serving bowl, \$9.90, from IKEA 8 Candle holder, \$8.95 from Crate & Barrel



QUIET LUXE
Metallic finishes add a touch of luxury to an otherwise basic form.

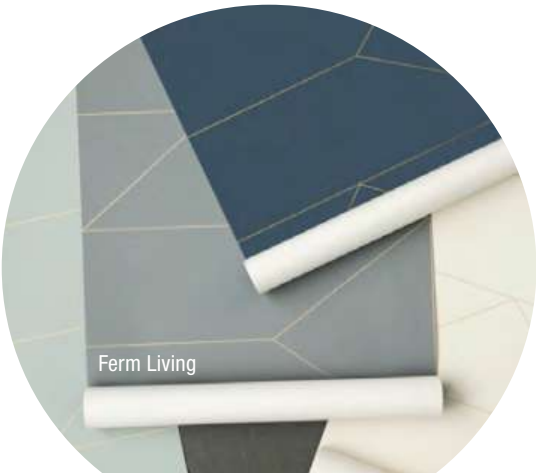
1 Brass mechanic pencil and pencil holder, POA, from Foundry **2** Wood and marble square platter, \$54.95, from Crate & Barrel **3** Moscow mule mug, \$29.95, from Crate & Barrel **4** Dot mirror, \$38.95, from Crate & Barrel **5** Marble salt-and-pepper shaker, \$38.95, from Crate & Barrel

Table surface: Laminate in Elemental Concrete from Formica

ALL HUNG UP

Considering wallpaper for your home? We peel back the layers of this decorative surface so you can get better acquainted

TEXT Ho Pei Ying



TYPES OF WALLPAPER

There are three types that currently dominate the Singapore market:



Roll size is typically **15.6m x 1.06m**, bigger than other wallpapers in the market. Due to its bigger size, there are fewer joints required, therefore producing a more seamless appearance upon application. Made of vinyl (paper-backing), they come in a wide range of designs.



Roll size is typically **10m x 0.53m**. They are usually priced higher due to transport and manufacturing fees. Want a look that's beyond the mainstream? European wallpapers will be your best bet as they are usually designed by individual designers so are rarely mass produced.



Like European wallpapers, roll size is typically **10m x 0.53m**. Made from PVC material, they are one of the cheaper wallpapers available. There are fewer designs available and their embossing might not appear as authentic as Korean ones.



From statement geometrics to folksy prints, wallpapers today come in a great number of varieties.

“Homeowners here should use vinyl (paper-backed) wallpaper as it can be cleaned and easily removed if you’re having second thoughts. It’s also water resistant thanks to the vinyl layer, so it’s great for areas with high humidity.”
 Derek Lok, Director at Wall Affairs

TIPS WHEN SHOPPING FOR WALLPAPER

1 Determine what look and mood you are going for in your home, and which room you’re applying the wallpaper. For bedrooms, you might want to opt for relaxing colours like blue and green or patterns that conjure up romance like damasks and florals. If you’re looking to use wallpaper in a larger area like a living room, decide whether you’re using it as a feature wall to draw immediate visual interest or to build up the ambiance of the entire space.

2 Always check if the price includes installation. Wallpaper is not expensive in and by itself; what takes up most of your budget are the installation fees. Here’s a good guide to how much you should pay (including installation):

Korean: \$270-500 per roll
European: \$150-250 per roll

European wallpaper might appear cheaper, but take note that the size of each roll is three times smaller than Korean wallpaper.

3 How much do you need? As a general guide, Korean wallpaper provides about 13sqm practical coverage per roll, while European/Chinese wallpaper provides about 4sqm practical coverage per roll. Always measure your wall dimensions carefully to determine how much you need. A good practice is to have excess wallpaper, which can also provide rectifications on damaged areas in the future.



Farrow & Ball

Avoid overwhelming a room by mixing plain and patterned wallpaper.

SURFACE

DON'TS OF WALLPAPER APPLICATION

- ✗ Don't hang wallpaper directly on a wall with defects including unevenness, stones, debris or underlying issues like prolonged stains, mould or burnt marks.
- ✗ Don't use wallpaper fixing glue or other types of glue as it will be difficult to remove the wallpaper. Use wallpaper paste instead, which allows you to move it around to match the pattern.
- ✗ Don't wallpaper over an old one if your previous wallpaper is made of vinyl, as it will result in mould forming.
- ✗ Don't choose wallpaper without considering the rest of your furniture.
- ✗ Don't paper an entire room with a busy print, unless you're looking to have a permanent headache. Keep it to accents and feature walls. That being said, don't be afraid to experiment!

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

A wallpaper job can last seven to 10 years if well maintained. Here are some tips for them to last for a long time to come:

- ✓ Keep your wallpaper dry and avoid cleaning it regularly. Use a duster to get rid of accumulated dust.
- ✓ When necessary, use a damp cloth to wipe away stains.
- ✓ Avoid placing furniture against the wallpaper, particularly if the piece gets moved around a lot as it might result in scratches on your wallpaper.



Not just for walls, wallpaper can be used to spruce up the insides of your drawers!



Satiate your wanderlust by covering your wall with a wallpaper of the world map.

Maps International

“Looking to stick wallpaper around tricky spots like fancy moulding? Don't cut your wallpaper according to the shape of that spot straightaway, as it might be difficult to match the pattern later on. Match the pattern on the wall first, then cut.”
Seanna Asyiah Lee, Managing Director at The Upper Room



tip!

TO PRIME OR NOT TO PRIME

A primer is not necessary in every instance, but use it if your wall paint is powdery, peeling or not sticking properly to the wall plaster. A white primer is also useful to cover a dark-coloured wall paint, particularly if your wallpaper is light coloured and not completely opaque.



WHERE TO GET WALLPAPER

Kanarien

www.kanarienshop.com
65 Tiong Poh Road
#01-32
tel: 6536 1035/37
A relatively new store, Kanarien mainly stocks mural wallpapers.

The Upper Room

www.theupperroom.sg
658D Jurong West Street 65
#13-630
tel: 9072 1512
The Upper Room carries a large variety of Korean wallpaper.

The Wall Story

www.thewallstory.com.sg
6 Raffles Boulevard
#03-300 Marina Square
tel: 6337 6933

Most of its vinyl (paper-backing) wallpapers come from Korea and the US.

Wall Affairs

www.wallaffairs.com.sg
65 Ubi Crescent
#08-05 Hola Centre
tel: 6846 4171
Besides standard wallpapers and wall murals, Wall Affairs also stocks 3D panels.

DO IT YOURSELF

IF YOUR WALLPAPER HAS LOOSE SEAMS Apply paste on both sides of the inner seams, then use a smoother to close the seams with a downward motion. Wipe excess paste using a damp cloth and apply pressure on the seams with a seams roller for about 20-30 minutes.

IF YOUR WALLPAPER HAS A SMALL TEAR Find a matching pattern. Cut a piece of wallpaper that is bigger than the torn piece e.g. 10-20cm margin. Place

the cut piece over the torn paper, then cut through the new wallpaper and the torn paper. Remove the torn piece from the wall and paste the new piece over the empty space.

IF YOU NEED TO REMOVE OLD WALLPAPER For vinyl (paper-backing) wallpaper, the vinyl layer can be easily removed by simply peeling them off the walls. For the paper-backing layer, soak it in water for about 15-30 minutes and then scrap it off the walls.

FOR YOUR *entertainment*

We round up some of the best products
for your home theatre system

TEXT Ho Pei Ying & Jolene Limuco



hear me out

PLANTRONICS BACKBEAT SENSE WIRELESS STEREO HEADPHONES

If you plan on watching movies late at night and don't want to disturb your neighbours, these headphones should come in handy.

At 140g, BackBeat SENSE is fairly light compared to other Bluetooth headphones in the same category, so you won't feel the strain even if you're watching a long movie. Built-in smart sensors automatically pause the audio when you slip off the headphones, preserving battery life when they're not being worn. And when you put them back on, sound fades in gently. On a single

charge, the headphones can stream music and media for up to 18 hours.

Plantronics audio and dynamic drivers are known to create an optimal balance of rich bass, crisp highs, and natural mid tones. So expect to hear every detail in your media. Because it comes with a Bluetooth functionality, the headphones are not only portable, they can also be connected to virtually any device with Bluetooth capabilities.

PRICE: \$279
available at selected distributors. For more information, visit www.plantronics.com

all in the details

EPSON EH-LS10000 3-LCD REFLECTIVE PROJECTOR

Epson's EH-LS10000 should pique your interest if you're thinking of investing in a home theatre projector. The main highlight of this device is that it is able to achieve an absolute black contrast. What this means is that when you're watching full-black movie or TV scenes, you're getting a display that is tremendously enhanced, projects a perfect black, and has a remarkably high contrast.

But we are most taken with its new 4K enhancement technology that processes and reproduces the details of standard 1080p (HD) videos to make them look like they are set in 4K resolution. The results are incredibly detailed images, all without them having to actually be in 4K! There are five different levels you can opt for, so you can select the one that best suits the type of content being processed. The projector also plays 3D content, and you get the option of converting your standard HD ones into 3D.

PRICE: \$10,999
available at KEC Sound System at The Adelphi





picture perfect

LG 55" EG960T ART SLIM CURVED 4K OLED TV

One of the first things you will notice about the EG960T is that it's incredibly slim. Unlike regular LEDs, OLED screens don't require back lighting to display images so the TV itself can be really thin. Featuring a streamlined form with miniscule screen bezel, the EG960T comes with a curved design and a "floating" stand so it looks really modern.

This LG TV proves that it doesn't just have a pretty exterior though; its 4K resolution (3840 x 2160) screen's self-lighting pixels provide perfect blacks and stunning colours as well as a fast response rate that eliminates motion blur. Plus you get the same superior picture quality no matter where you sit.

But what's a perfect display without good sound quality? We love that it's practically a cinematic experience with the EG960T – you feel as if you're right in the action when you're watching your favourite flick. The device's sound system is designed in collaboration with harman/kardon, who is known for producing top quality speakers.

The EG960T runs on LG's new webOS 2.0 smart TV platform, which runs a lot faster than its predecessor. For the multitasker, you'll be pleased to know that you can switch among various content with incredible ease with this new platform upgrade.

PRICE: \$6,999

available at all major electronic stores

modern masterpiece

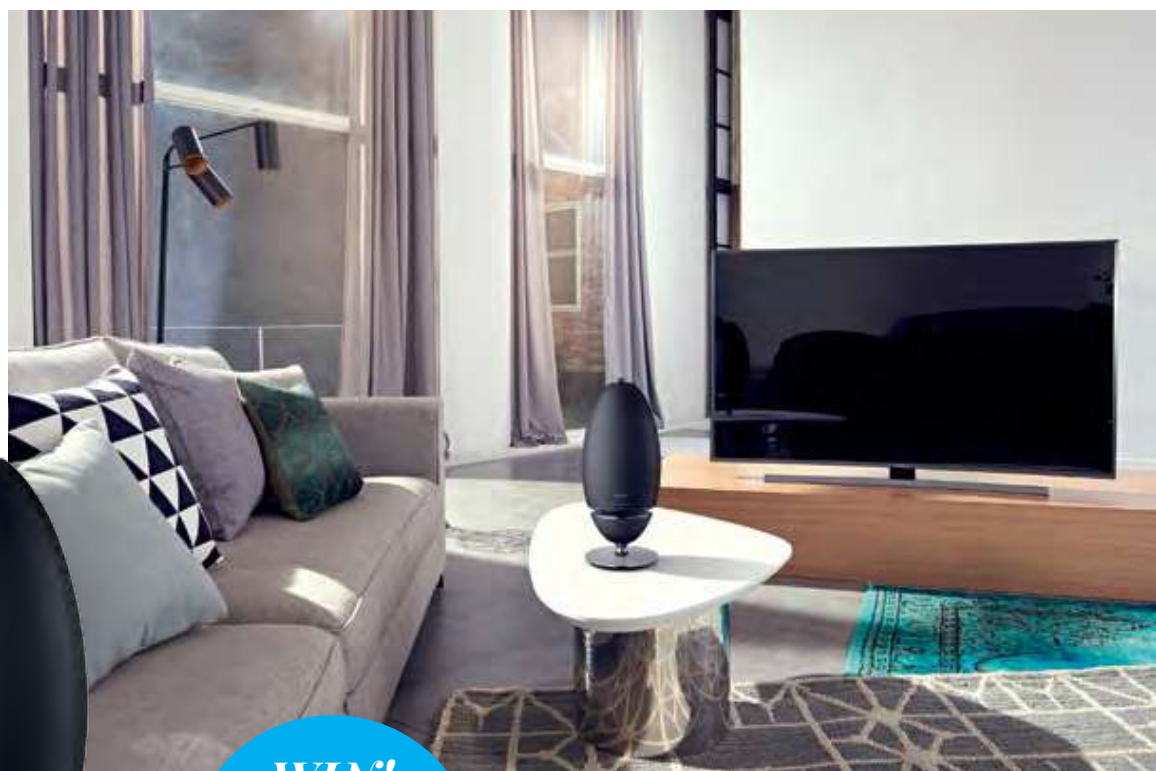
SAMSUNG WIRELESS AUDIO MULTIROOM 360 SPEAKER (R7)

Besides resembling a piece of modern art that can blend seamlessly into any contemporary home, the R7 speaker has a unique offering – an ability to provide rich, full-bodied sound that fills the entire room evenly. This is contributed by its "Ring Radiator" technology that allows sound to flow in a 360-degree radius, thereby producing the right amount of treble and bass to create a balanced listening experience.

Featuring a straightforward and hassle-free setup with plug-and-play installation, this speaker is great for homeowners who dislike seeing many visible wires at home – the R7 can be plugged into a power source and be remotely controlled through the Samsung's Multiroom App 2.0. This multiroom connectivity enables music to be played on the speaker across different platforms such as mobile phones, TVs, soundbars and home entertainment systems.

PRICE: \$699

available at all major electronic stores



WIN!

*a Samsung
Wireless Audio
Multiroom 360
Speaker (R7)
worth \$699!*

To win, log on to our Facebook page with this promo code:
OCTGIV15 to find out how!



curves ahead

SAMSUNG 65" 4K SUHD JS9000 SERIES CURVED SMART TV

While it seems that newer and better TVs are entering the market each year, Samsung's latest Ultra High Definition Smart TV is becoming a top pick amongst tech-savvy homeowners. We can see why. Delivering crisp and bright images that cover a wider colour gamut as compared to conventional LED-backlight versions, the SUHD series displays a wider spectrum of true-to-life colours. The result is a realistic and detailed viewing experience that utilises eco-friendly nano-crystal technology.

On top of that, an intelligent SUHD re-mastering engine is able to automatically analyse the brightness of images to minimise additional power consumption while also producing ultimate contrast levels to showcase images with darker blacks and an elevated level of brightness that's more than 2.5 times brighter than UHD TVs.

Perhaps the feature we most appreciate in the Samsung 4K SUHD Curved Smart TV is its curved design. Because of its gradual curve, TV viewing is more

immersive. Not only that, the structure also reduces fatigue as it allows users to view the entire screen from all angles – the curvature of the screen means that you can view the entire screen from the same distance.

If you appreciate your devices being linked up into a seamless network, then you'd be glad to know that this TV is powered by Tizen, an open-source platform that allows users sync up their smartphones with the TV, render pop-up displays and share videos directly from their mobile devices. The JS9000 also comes with a Smart Remote Control that allows the user to take control of the TV via a touchpad or voice command, as well as the One Connect Box that lets you access the Smart Hub, Smart Interaction and Smart Remote Control. With its advanced features coupled with an elegant minimalist design, the Samsung 4K SUHD Curved Smart TV is the ultimate device for the modern home.

PRICE: \$7,499

available at all major electronic stores



power play

SONY S6500 BLU-RAY DISC PLAYER

At the top of Sony's 2015 Blu-ray disc player line-up is the S6500 that comes packaged in a minimalist-looking rectangular outer shell. While that's nothing to shout about, its features definitely impress. One of which is its capability to play media in up to 4K UHD resolution. The S6500 also plays 3D movies, and has an additional ability to convert 2D movies into 3D ones. Other features include the ability to mirror media from your smartphone or tablet directly to your TV screen using Sony's Miracast screen-

mirroring technology as well as an IP content noise reduction pro technology to improve the appearance of low-resolution clips streamed from the web.

Still unconvinced? Then listen to this: the S6500 has a digital music enhancer which reinstates subtle high frequency details that get lost when listening to heavily-compressed digital music files. This technology also means that lost dynamics in low-bit rate audio tracks also get restored.

PRICE: \$299

available at all major electronic stores

bar none

SONOS PLAYBAR

Like surround sound but can't accommodate a multichannel speaker system at home? Look no further than a soundbar, which incorporates multiple speakers into a single device. Seeing the Sonos Playbar, one is immediately taken by its sleek, linear form.

The Playbar is also incredibly easy to set up. There aren't a lot of wires involved – it connects to the TV with a single optical cable, playing everything that is attached to it along the way, from cable boxes to Blu-ray players and game consoles. If you're looking to make a deep impact, pair it with Sonos Sub – the Sonos wireless subwoofer – then add a pair of Play:3s to act as wireless surround speakers for an immersive 5.1 home theatre surround sound experience.

It packs a punch in specs too. There are nine individually amplified speakers: six mid-woofers to deliver deep and rich low-frequency sounds and three tweeters for crystal clear high-frequency detail.

PRICE: \$1,299

available at Tat Chuan Acoustic at The Adelphi and all major electronic stores



GEM OF A LANDMARK

Rising above the historic enclave of Little India, the Indian Heritage Centre is a contemporary building that houses a trove of South Asian art and artefacts from as early as the 1st century CE

TEXT Jolene Limuco

PHOTOS COURTESY OF Robert Greg Shand Architects and the Indian Heritage Centre

Appearing like a larger-than-life jewel box, the four-storey Indian Heritage Centre is a contemporary building located at the heart of the heritage enclave of Little India.

Appearing like a jewel box in the heart of Little India, the Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) is a four-storey cultural centre that rises above the conservation shophouses that have occupied the district since the colonial era.

The heritage institution, which opened in May this year, traces the history of the South Asian community in Singapore and Southeast Asia, while capturing the diversity and multifaceted nature of the Indian culture. To complement the three galleries within the building, the architectural team from Robert Greg Shand Architects incorporated

elements from different aspects of Indian art forms into the design of the building.

For instance, an eye-catching motif seen on the building's front is a geometric pattern that mimics an Indian stepped well, called "baoli". Also used in a series of steps that facilitate the traffic flow between floors in the Centre, the baoli pattern is translated onto the facade through a composition of curtain wall glazing, with staircases serving as three-dimensional ornamental openwork that modulate light, air and views between the surrounding streets and the galleries.

While such elements pay homage to Indian



While the Indian Heritage Centre features elements inspired by Indian arts and culture, the team from Robert Greg Shand Architects were careful not to be too literal in their depiction of traditional motifs, opting instead to design a contemporary building that is relevant to the current context.

gallery to gallery, the stairs keeps them connected to the street, which also reminds them of where they are.”

What gives the IHC its jewel-like appearance is the colourful mural installation by renowned Indian artist Ketna Patel. The building is a visual spectacle to behold in the evenings especially, as LED fixtures integrated into the design of the curtain wall structure can dance across the facade.

To enter the building, visitors step through an intricately carved entry portal. Measuring an imposing 6m, the door is hand carved from three large blocks of granite in a village in Tamil Nadu. The carving lends a tactile quality to the entrance, further adding a layer of texture to the space.

customs and way of life, the architects were careful not to be too literal in the depiction of traditional motifs. Instead, they chose to create a contemporary landmark that is relevant in today's context.

The translucent shimmering wall of glass effectively creates an impression of a “shining jewel” in the day that transforms into a “glowing lantern” at night. The transparency of the building's front allows the gallery to flow into the street as well, enticing passers-by to look in and engage with the building. Nalina Gopal the curator at IHC says, “The design of the building's facade was key because we wanted to connect our visitors to the vibrant Little India neighbourhood.”

This connection is clearly seen in the architects' blueprint. Even when planning traffic flow, the architects wished to blend the streetscape into the Centre. Says Greg Shand, lead architect and founder of Robert Greg Shand Architects, “When visitors want to move from



The geometric design of the building's facade mimics the traditional Indian stepped well, called “baoli”. The design is not only ornamental; it also serves as the main passages of the Centre.

SENSATIONALS

Inside the IHC, the three galleries are laid out on the second, third and fourth levels. The exhibits were conceptualised together with the National Heritage Board (NHB), and features more than 400 artefacts from the National Collection, and members of the local community and institutions. The galleries are calm spaces to encourage learning and reflection. Interiors are purposefully kept minimal to allow the art pieces to take centre stage. As such, natural and raw materials were mostly used. Think teak, off-form concrete, steel glass and plain granite, with travertine marble providing a focus in the lobby.

Another interesting aspect of the Centre is its site – a triangular plot of land at the intersection

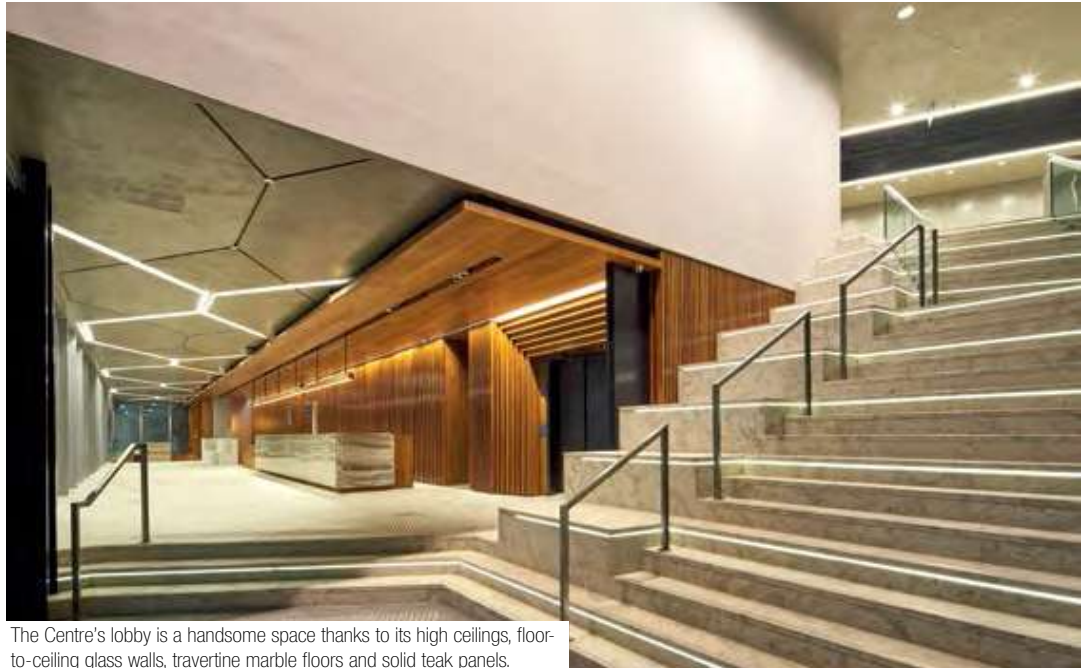
“The design of the building’s facade was key because we wanted to connect our visitors to the vibrant Little India neighbourhood.”

Nalina Gopal, curator

of Campbell Lane and Clive Street that has been left empty since the early days of Little India.

To build a four-storey contemporary building at the 10,226-square foot site is therefore no easy task. To meet the requirements of the NHB of incorporating three galleries over four levels, with community spaces and all necessary ancillary support spaces to service an international-quality museum, the architectural team had to maximise space efficiency. That’s why so much emphasis had been placed on guiding the traffic flow within the Centre. A single industrial-sized lift functions as both a service lift for transporting exhibits and as a passenger lift for visitors. However, the exterior staircases serve as the main passages between galleries.

Due to its small plot, the massing of the building was stepped down to complement the height of the surrounding conservation shophouses. In addition, the urban design at the street level allows the public to “engage” with the



The Centre’s lobby is a handsome space thanks to its high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling glass walls, travertine marble floors and solid teak panels.



The permanent galleries at the IHC are broken down into five themes that trace the history of the South Asian community in Singapore, and feature artefacts that date back as early as the 1st century CE.

building – for example, pedestrians can sit on the exterior column plinth, steps and benches as they stroll through the neighbourhood. Campbell Lane, the street on which the IHC occupies, was also pedestrianised by the Urban Development Authority with the intention of using it as an extended gathering place for residents and visitors to Little India. Look closer at the pavement and you will even notice a similar geometric pattern that echoes the IHC’s facade.

With its elegant contemporary foundation contrasted with intricate elements found in Indian arts and culture, the IHC is poised to become an architectural marvel in the already colourful historic enclave.

We visited the Indian Heritage Centre as part of a guided tour by Architours, a programme that is part of Archifest 2015. For more information, visit www.archifest.sg and www.indianheritage.org.sg.



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OVERVIEW

Despite its modest square footage, there is a lot to take in the moment you step into the home. The most eye-catching detail are the storage compartments above the TV. Extending to the corridor frame, the boxy cabinets take advantage of vertical space. Black frames provide a strong visual element here, punctuated by vibrant decor and a blue paint job in the kid's room.





BALCONY

The family's more formal dining area makes for a cosy spot for meals. The couple was deciding between synthetic turf and teak wood decking, but settled for the latter as they feared a faux grass carpet could trap a lot of dust.

detail ORIENTED

Despite its size, a petite family home has plenty going for it with smart space-saving solutions, generous storage and stylish design elements, proving that sometimes, more really is more

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTOS Wong Weiliang

4 ROOM
DBSS FLAT

870 sqf



RENO PERIOD
6 WEEKS

HOME TO 
9 CLEMENTI



LIVING ROOM
(above)

A cosy brown leather sofa from Commune instantly warms up the interiors and tempers the black accents and straight lines in this home. Behind, the homeowners did up a photo frame collage to fill the empty wall with inspirational quotes and memories of family vacations.

Finding the perfect interior designer to meet your needs can be like finding a needle in a haystack. And no one understands this better than homeowners Trey and Sylvia, who visited close to five interior designers before deciding on Dan Wu from Dan's Workshop. Trey explains their choice: "We felt that many of the designers we went to wanted us to 'feed' ideas to them, but the problem was, being new to this ourselves, we didn't really know what we wanted!"

Dan was recommended to them by a friend of Sylvia's, whose home was also done up by the interior designer. "She showed us pictures of her house, and we really liked what Dan did to it," says Trey. "We liked that he had a lot of

ideas coming into this. All he did was ask us what our needs were, and he provided us with a vision and concept of how our house would look like."

One of the things that the couple specifically asked for was plenty of storage space. In the living room, we see a row of storage compartments located above the TV, extending all the way to the top of the corridor archway. The design works for the small home as it makes use of otherwise unused vertical space and frees up room on the floor. The couple also appreciates the fact that by positioning the cabinets at the top, it helps to keep the sharp corners away from the reach of their young toddler.

Dan built a raised platform with hidden compartments in the space-starved master bedroom to give the couple even more storage



WALKWAY

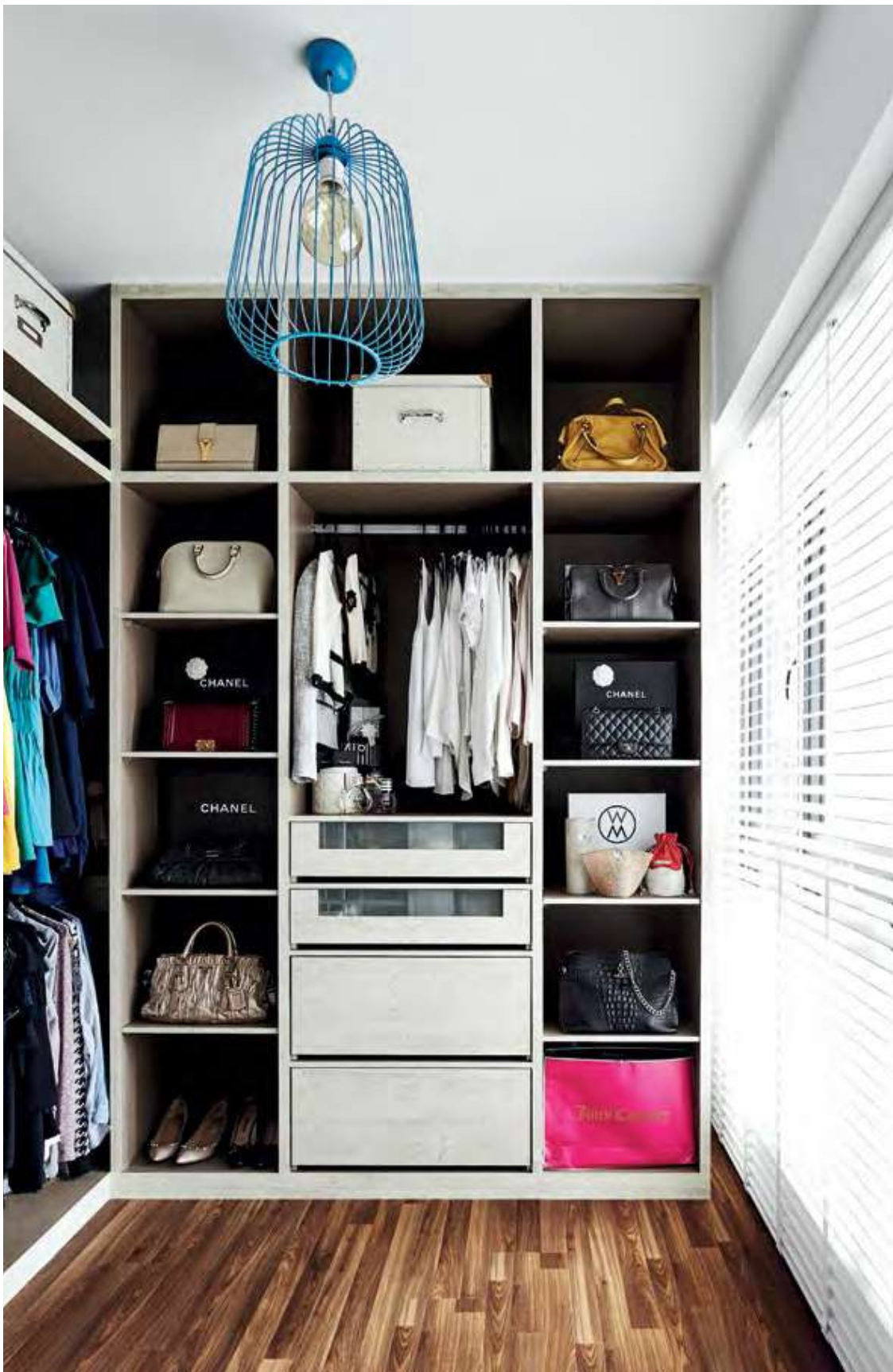
Trey wanted the entire hallway to be painted black with chalkboard paint, which Sylvia did not like. "She thought it would look like a black hole," says Trey. As such, the couple reached a compromise: the hallway was painted black, but white frames and chalk drawings add a pop of contrast to the midnight walls.

SPACES

BEDROOM PLATFORM

To circumvent around the cramped bedroom, a raised platform with storage was built.
On bed: Quilted throw from HomesToLife
On platform: Vase and tray from HomesToLife, ornamental flowers and basket from Egg3





**Forestier Mesh Pendant
Light from Lifestorey**

WALK-IN WARDROBE (left)

One of the bedrooms was turned into a walk-in wardrobe for Sylvia, with open compartments to show off her collection of fashion accessories and apparel.

space for things they don't frequently use, like winter clothing and bed linen. The design is not only functional, it is also unobtrusive to the overall aesthetics of the room. Next door, a walk-in wardrobe, converted from an existing bedroom, provides ample storage for Sylvia's collection of clothes and accessories.

The couple also requested that the walls dividing their son's playroom from the communal zones be hacked away completely. "We wanted to keep an eye on our son while he is playing inside," explains Trey. Thus, Dan replaced the concrete walls with a partition constructed from aluminium frames and tempered glass panels. With it, more daylight can enter the room, creating a bright and inviting play area made even more cheery thanks to the snazzy blue paint – the son's favourite hue – on the walls of the room.

When asked what their favourite part of the home was, Trey was ready with an answer: "We love the bar counter!" And we can see why. The entire space is decked out to look like an



MASTER BEDROOM

Making use of an original recess area in the master bedroom, a false wall and display feature was constructed and custom built for the couple.

On display feature:

White photo frame from HomesToLife, silver vase from Egg3

On bed: Cushions, yellow throw and quilted throw from HomesToLife

On floor: Vase, decorative plants and bar stool from Egg3



STYLING Michelle Lim X ART DIRECTION Neo Aik Sing



KITCHEN

(left)

The kitchen cabinets came with the DBSS flat. To give it a bit of character and pop of colour, they went with a backsplash decked out in an assortment of Peranakan tiles from Hafary, which Trey selected himself.

TV FEATURE

(below)

To create visual interest in the console area, Dan incorporated a feature below the TV by incorporating a cheeky wordplay with the phrase “turn me on”. The words were laser cut using a computer, and then concealed behind a wire mesh frame made from mild steel.



industrial-style cafe, replete with brick wall, rustic wood surfaces, chalkboard feature, and galvanised bar stools. As they didn’t want a conventional dining area, the custom-built bar counter serves as a spot for meals, and sometimes doubles as a workspace when the homeowners have to work from home. It joins together with the dry kitchen counter, where food is prepared and appliances like the coffee machine and oven are stored. For more formal dining and entertaining, the balcony area, furnished with a patio dining set, is used instead.

This apartment, their first family home, is a dream come true for the couple, who is expecting a new addition to the family very soon. Says Trey: “We couldn’t be happier with how everything turned out, and we’re really looking forward to welcoming our new baby here!”

MATERIALS



LIVING ROOM
STORAGE
Rustic woodgrain
laminate from Lamitak



DINING ROOM
FEATURE WALL
Persian Red CraftBrick



PLAYROOM
WALL
Nippon Ribbon
Dance blue

ON THE *bright side*

One demolition and reconstruction later, a 20-year-old terrace house is transformed into a light-filled and airy dwelling that smacks of class

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTOS Distinct Identity

The minimalist silhouette of this home stands out amidst the villa-like terraces flanking it. At three-storeys high, it towers slightly over its neighbours. The exterior's monochrome palette – whitewash facade accented with black trimming – conjures up sophistication and modernity, and forms a prelude to the contemporary interiors.

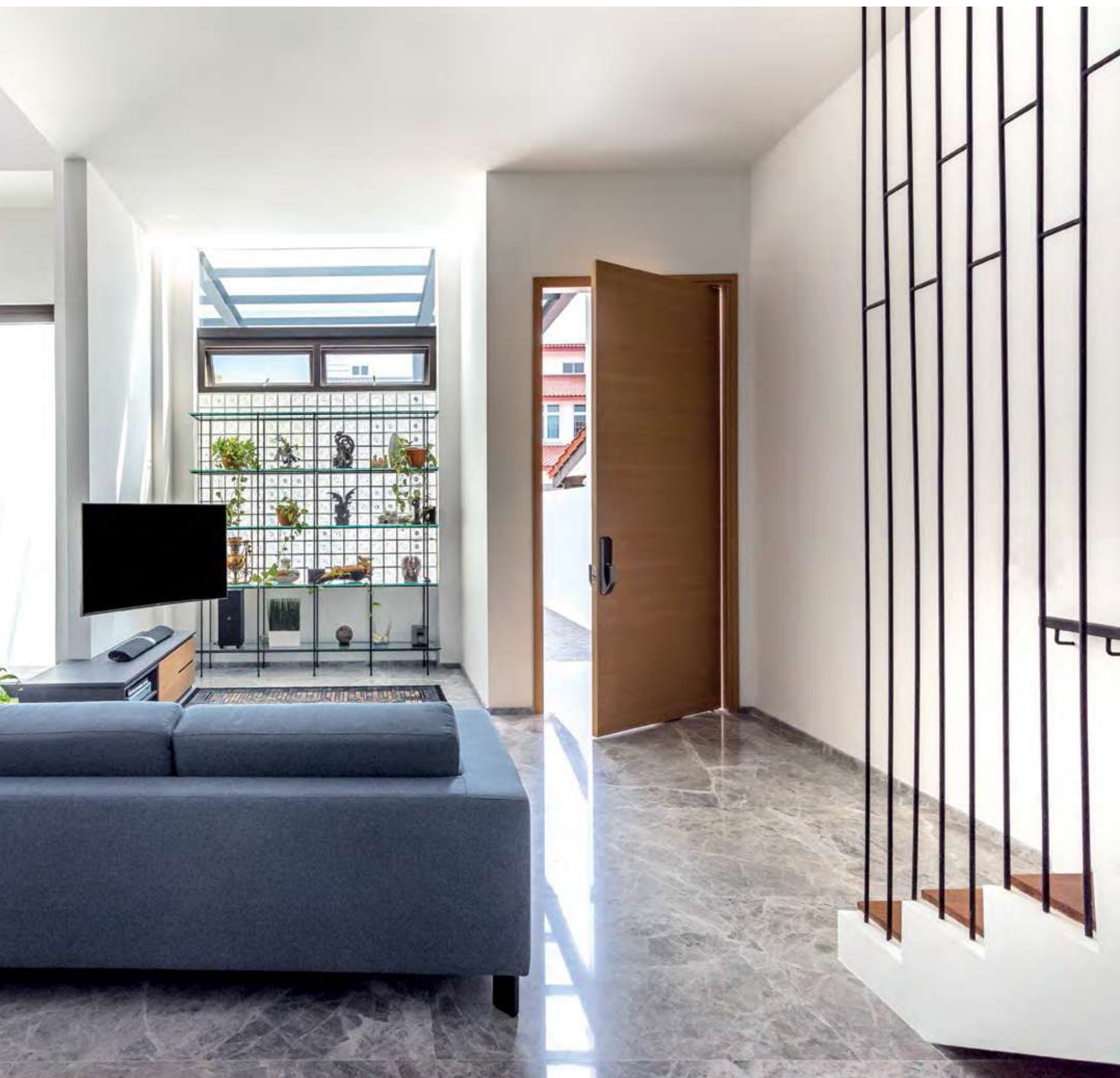
This was after the reconstruction. Originally, the house was a 20-year-old, two-and-a-half-storey terrace that looked every

LIVING ROOM

A wall feature made from glass blocks ensures that natural light can enter the interiors while still allowing for privacy. These patterned chunks present a unique feature wall for the living area and act as a backdrop to the see-through shelves.



3 STOREY HOUSE | **4,844** sqft | **RENO PERIOD** 18 MONTHS | HOME TO **3** PEOPLE





Bird wall decoration
from BoConcept

INDOOR GARDEN
One of the things the plant-loving homeowner requested for was an indoor garden. With its lush foliage and vibrant hues, this patch of nature enlivens the home environment. Part of the space was done up in timber decking and set aside as a relaxing nook. A pair of neon pink rattan chairs lends a bit of fun to the more formal decor in the rest of the home.





DINING SPACE (above)

Linking the kitchen island with the dining table was a deliberate move to create a more seamless and social space. Besides serving as a food prep station, the island also makes room for extra seating when the family has guests over. Open shelves were built into the island to stash small kitchen appliances and dining ware.

KITCHEN (top, right)

Full-height pantry cabinets and shelves in this long and narrow kitchen help to maximise the space. The clear glass louvres provide ventilation and natural light as well as interaction with the dining space. However, they also keep fumes out of the communal areas when the family engages in heavy cooking.

bit its age. Homeowner Jaef disliked how the dark the insides of the home looked and decided to engage the team at Distinct Identity to demolish the old structure and rebuild a new one in its place. In order to maximise the gross floor area, the new building is also bigger. It now stands at over 4,000 square feet with three storeys and an attic space.

Jaef wanted his family home, where he stays with his mother, wife and two daughters, to be bright and breezy. Glass panels and louvres and skylights were used to ventilate the space and to introduce daylight into the interiors. In the living room, a wall feature made from distorted glass blocks – one of



Jaef's favourite design details in his new home – also helps to bring natural light into the interiors while affording privacy.

As he loves plants, Jaef wanted the team to design an indoor garden. A strip of space on the first floor was thus set aside to accommodate his request. Half the area is covered in timber decking, where characterful neon pink rattan chairs are set out to create a leisure alcove with a retro vibe. The rest of the space is carpeted in grass for the plants.

The dry kitchen and dining space sit next to the indoor garden. An island, where food preparation is done, joins together with the dining table, making for a more convenient

SPACES



STAIRWAY
(above)

Powder coated in black, vertical steel rods serve as guardrails to the cantilevered stairs. The modern design stretches all the way to the ceiling at the third floor, making for a stunning visual statement.

DANCING HALL
(right)

In contrast with the marble flooring in the first storey, the second floor – used as a dancing hall – went for a warmer vibe with parquet flooring. A full-height display feature provides extra storage for books and other knick-knacks.





MASTER BEDROOM

(left)

The homeowners' bedroom is swathed in different shades of brown, a hue that the design team chose as they wanted to create a cosy setting in the couple's sleeping quarters. One of the more interesting design features here is the see-through closet, custom built to display a curated selection of dresses and bags. A long console cum study desk takes up the other side of the room, affording a continuous line of vision and plenty of storage space.

MASTER EN SUITE

(bottom, left)

The spacious adjoining bathroom feels like a luxurious hotel spa, thanks to the strip of skylight, rainfall showerhead and surfaces that look like natural stone.

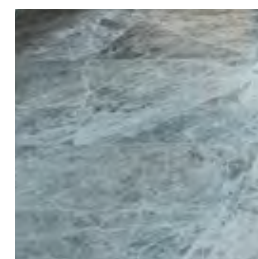
arrangement for the family who often have their meals at home.

Swathed in grey marble flooring, the first level is nothing short of elegant. Upstairs, however, features a cosier and more inviting mood with parquet flooring and wood surfaces. The large expanse of space besides the cantilevered stairs is equipped with wall-to-wall mirrors and is where the daughters practise their dance routines.

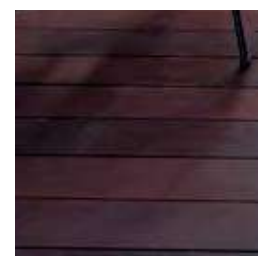
To transform the bedrooms into restful retreats, the design team decided to go for an earthy, brown palette in the private sanctuaries. The master bedroom, for instance, sees plenty of woodgrain surfaces, while the headboard is custom made using brown fabric. Clothes and accessories are displayed in the custom-built, see-through closet to add a bit of colour to the room.



MATERIALS



COMMUNAL
ZONES
FLOORING
Marble tiles
from Hafary



INDOOR
GARDEN
DECKING
Ironwood stained in
walnut colour

SPACES



1 BEDROOM
APARTMENT | **650** sqf | BUDGET **\$30K** | HOME TO 



COMMUNAL AREAS
In this compact area, each zone is carefully designated with a different lighting element. Even with the close proximity, it doesn't clash because of the other respective design accents that firmly anchor each area.

PIXEL *perfect*

A dark backdrop serves as the perfect setting to illuminate this studio apartment with a contemporary design form

TEXT Disa Tan PHOTOS Versaform



Paradise Cushion,
from Cumulus Living

KITCHEN
(right)

The jagged order of the hanging pendant lamps were a deliberate attempt by the designers to create more visual interest for this space. With the help of clear, inconspicuous fishing wire, it looks as though there is a pitched roof; which makes for an elevated ceiling height.

LIVING
(opposite page)

Of all the colours to consider, this saturated tone of grey is the most versatile to draw out the brilliance of this art piece. The colours against its subtle backdrop fill the space with a tasteful aesthetic.



While white walls go a long way in advocating an expansive ambiance, this bachelor pad is quite the opposite. It goes against the natural interior design rules for space enhancement with a darker palette of saturated tones like sea green and a deep grey. Yet, it comes across looking much larger than its 650 square footage.

The homeowner asked for an eclectic style which centres around an artwork of colourful pixel motifs. Entrusting the renovation to the Versaform design team, he pretty much gave them free reign to conceptualise the entire look.

The point of entry is adorned with boutique-

style shoe shelving. Spreading across one wall in a stylish arrangement, the monochromatic shelves showcase the owner’s footwear with much flair. The designers explain: “We didn’t want to add bulk to the entryway with a boxy cabinet. That’s why open shelving was put up.”

A few steps forward and the open-concept kitchen is within reach. Decked in glossy purple laminate cabinets, the cooking zone is equipped with its own bar counter which also serves as the dining table. Breaking the purple reign is a dark grainy laminate rich in texture. It is used for the bar area and demarcates its function from the rest of the kitchen cabinets.

The same rustic-looking laminate is applied



“We had some fun with the shoe shelving which is put together in a casual, boutique-style format. Plus, it is not as bulky like a shoe cabinet.”
Versaform designers



SPACES



MASTER BEDROOM

(left)

The walls carry a dual tone of a dark bluish green matched with a subtle portion of teal. To conserve more walking room in this classy and cosy sleeping space, the raised platform is flushed with the bay window seat. Pops of orange as the shelf backings for the platform base add some visual contrast.

WOOD ACCENTS

(below)

Woodgrain flourishes bestow warmth in contrast to the modern contemporary furnishings. As seen on the feature wall which matches the bar countertop, the textured style brings a layered touch to the shared communal area. At the balcony, accoya wood decking shrouds the petite space with a relaxed feel.

to the living area's feature wall. Its dark tone pairs well with the other facing wall, which hosts the main focal point of the apartment: the vibrantly-hued hanging artwork. Echoing the colours is the area rug in several gradient tones and honeycomb motifs.

Favouring an all-white palette over other colours might be the most successful tactic to open up a space, but the designers here decided to take a risk with colours that are far more interesting. It was definitely a gamble that paid off.



MATERIALS



COMMUNAL
ZONES
FLOORING
High gloss
laminates from TAK



LIVING
FEATURE
WALL
Semi-textured
laminates from TAK

Feng shui basics

Wish to incorporate some feng shui into your home but unsure of where to start? Sean Lui, the Principal Consultant of 6 Charms Singapore shares some strategies and tips on ushering positive energy into your home

Welcoming positive energy

The main entrance is a good sector to start with. Sean advises, "Make sure a strong metallic element is applied in this sector – use a painting with a metallic element, such as gold or silver paint or even an art piece with a strong metallic theme, and hang it facing the main entrance. In addition, good lighting that highlights this painting will improve the 'rating' of the feng shui for the house."

When it comes to furnishing your home, Sean says that each area of the home corresponds to a different area in your life. "Make sure all these sectors are well taken care of to ensure an overall positive inflow of energy for the family," he shares.

Use colour wisely

The living room represents the harmony and wealth energy of the homeowners. A rule of thumb when you are doing a renovation for your house: the living room must be bright to ensure a positive communication among family members, not to mention the wealth sector is located in the living room, ensuring the sector is bright and positive will promote good flow of wealth energy (cai qi) in the house.

On the contrary, you should avoid strong colours in the bedroom, as it is a place to rest and rejuvenate our body. Try to use warm colours if possible to create a Zen-like ambiance. When it comes to positioning the bed, north is always the best sector, however take into consideration the logical situation



you are facing (as you may not be able to do so due to space issues). Avoid facing the bed towards the window or room door. You can always hang a painting of wood elements, such as one with a green theme to improve the sleep and health of the occupants.

Health and wealth promotion

The kitchen represents the ability to accumulate wealth and promote the health of family members. As the kitchen is a combination of different elements (fire and water which are represented by the stove and sink), make sure the sink and stove are not located too closely to each other. Sean says that clashing these two elements will indicate a loss of wealth for the owner. If there is a space constraint, make sure you place a plant in between to neutralise the clash, as having wood element in between water and fire creates a harmonious relationship.

Due to the constrain of the space available in the kitchen, always try to avoid the stove facing the entrance of the toilet as this symbolises a constant loss of wealth for the

owners, meaning the owner will not be able to save enough for the family on long run. As for stove, try to avoid facing it opposite the window as this indicates weak health for a female owner.

Sean Lui is the Principal Consultant of 6 Charms Singapore, a well-established feng shui consultancy firm wholly owned by Chinese Heritage Foundation. He has more than 17 years of experience as a corporate feng shui and Chinese heritage consultant.



6 Charms Singapore

Main Office: 9 Raffles Boulevard, Millenia Walk #02-21, Singapore 039596

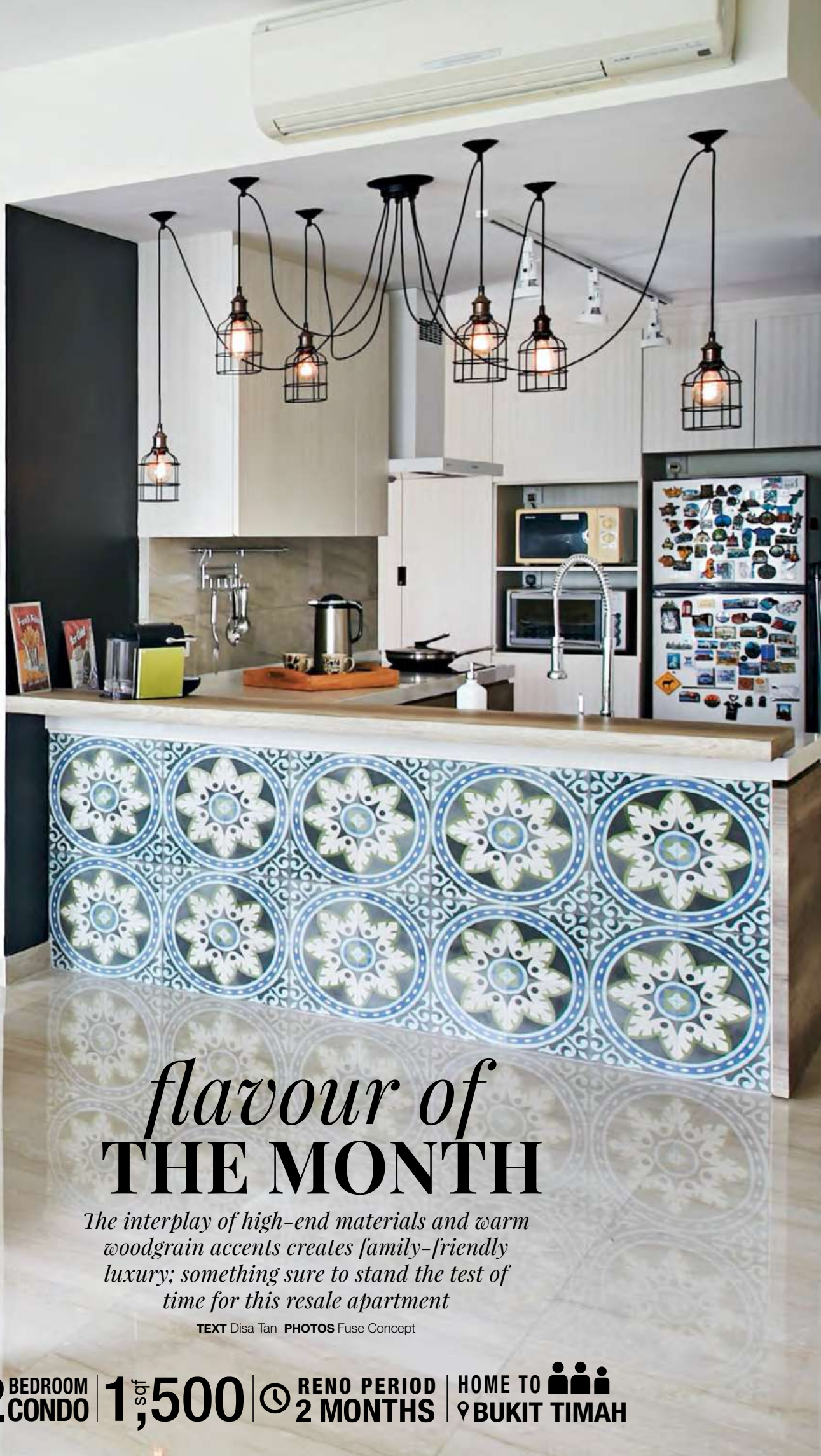
Enquiry Hotline: 6438 5698

Email: admin@chinese.org.sg or admin@6charms.com.sg

Website: www.6charms.com.sg



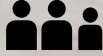
OVERALL VIEW
With the existing marble tiles re-polished to its former sheen, the living hall appears significantly larger. This is made even more apparent by the reshuffling of the previous layout; the living area now sees the torn down third bedroom space with its existing parquet flooring being added to the communal areas.



flavour of **THE MONTH**

The interplay of high-end materials and warm woodgrain accents creates family-friendly luxury; something sure to stand the test of time for this resale apartment

TEXT Disa Tan PHOTOS Fuse Concept

2 BEDROOM CONDO | **1,500** sqft | ⌚ RENO PERIOD 2 MONTHS | HOME TO  **9** BUKIT TIMAH





LIVING AREA

Materials like cement screed, Peranakan tiles and marble flooring create a space bursting with exotic design flavours. Yet, the designers' skilled eye in pairing strong statement looks is on point so nothing looks misplaced.

While some designers endeavour for a full-impact design style – one that will make a deep first impression – the Fuse Concept design team had other plans for this resale condominium unit. At every turn, the home hosts a unique design feature. Suffice to say, this home carries an eclectic look. Call it industrial vintage or modern classic, the look is intangible – it's hard to truly make out the main styles that come together to complete the final product. That was exactly the aim of the design team: to use contrast to draw out different design interpretations.

Though the style can't be locked down, several recurring materials can be identified. The designers kept some of the existing features such as the marble and parquet floorings, and used them as the fundamental composition to add on new material pairings. The introduction of materials such as Peranakan tiles, laminates with timber strip patterns and cement screeding usher in lots of evocative flavours and textures. A grounding white wall treatment then serves



Light bulbs,
from House Doctor

DAYLIGHT
(above)

Natural light pours into the room, making the space feel inviting and airy. The open-plan kitchen benefits from its newly-hacked setup, with the light gushing into the space.

as a measured balance and prevents the look from going awry.

A major overhaul ensued with boundary walls being hacked away and rooms reconfigured. The third bedroom, for instance, was torn down and is now integrated with the communal zones. The previously enclosed kitchen is now an open-plan space, as it was downsized to make room for the domestic helper's compact bedroom. Such a space-enhancing layout can then keep the reduced cooking space from looking dark and cramped.

Very often, the living area is lavishly done up while private spaces like bedrooms and bathrooms are moderately dressed.

This unconventional home of course does not follow the norm. One of the bedroom has an elaborate boxed-up style element. Belonging to the teenage son, the layout of this space has a slanted corner where custom-built fixtures are brought in to save the day. Extra attention was paid to this area as the designers factored in the awkward position of the study being right outside the attached bathroom. Therefore, the bedroom is finished in a seamless and smooth order of cabinetry works which function respectively as the sliding bathroom door, shelving and a wardrobe.

The common bathroom also hosts a unique configuration: it is segregated into dry and



POWDER ROOM
It might be odd to find a powder room in the middle of the living room. However, the designers embraced its unconventional position by installing a privacy divider sporting timber strip patterns as a stand-out feature.

SPACES



MASTER BEDROOM
(above)
This sleeping boudoir is decked in warm woodgrains of contrasting dark and neutral hues. The simple setting is made functional with an L-shaped arrangement of wardrobes and a hanging worktop.

SLIDING STORAGE
(right)
With the dual-function sliding door closing off either the book shelving or bathroom entrance, it makes the usage of the space a lot more versatile.





STUDY AREA
(far left)

To conceal a slanted corner, the designers used custom-built fixtures to smooth out the uneven kinks. It now serves as functional shelving.

BATHROOM
(left)

For design consistency, both the common and ensuite bathrooms are decked out in the same tiles.

wet areas. The designers pushed out the sink counter so that it may serve as a powder room. For privacy, a laminate divider sporting timber strip motifs was put up to block the frosted glass door leading towards the wet area.

They say clothes make the man so one might imagine this effervescent home a shining reflection of its homeowners. Gregarious people, with sparkling personalities, would be something that comes to mind but the homeowners are anything but. Instead, they are quiet and simple folks who cherish their peace and privacy than hosting gatherings. While this is unexpected, this home is one true style chameleon which will change as its owners' tastes evolve. By that time, we are sure it will be up for anything.

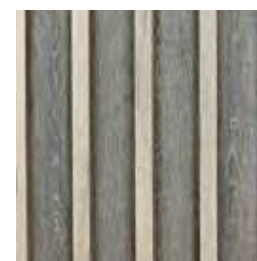
MATERIALS



**KITCHEN
COUNTER**
Peranakan tiles
from Hafary



LIVING WALL
Cement screed with
manually-cut grid lines



**BATHROOM
DIVIDER**
Laminates from Amira

SPACES



OPEN-PLAN LAYOUT
The kitchen is a functional space that blends into the design of the living room. The cooking zone keeps to the overall theme through the installation of a pristine breakfast counter and a double-glazed glass panel that keeps cooking smells from infiltrating the rest of the home.



chic lines, **MODERN SPACE**

A linear-themed design and neutral colours come together to create a modern-day sanctum at Lakeside

TEXT Stanley Lim **PHOTOS** D'Marvel Scale

The use of a pristine white-and-brown palette along with an interior centred on functionality, privacy and comfort – such is the design concept of the Ong family's residence. Located at Lakeside, the newly-renovated, five-room condominium unit exudes a timeless charm thanks to the modernistic elements incorporated into its architecture.

This design philosophy is made evident in the apartment's central living space where several pieces of furniture come together to create a sense of sleekness. An inviting velvet sofa with twin cushions and a hardwood dining table welcome visitors as they enter the house. Two rows of track lights line the ceiling, providing

the living room with ample illumination and a stylish, contemporary look.

Giving off a similar vibe, the open-air balcony beckons with its wooden flooring and a single, weaved rattan sofa topped with plush, white cushions. The choice of using hybrid ceiling fan-lamps also ensures that the area has adequate ventilation and lighting while keeping design clutter to a minimum.

The kitchen keeps up with the overall theme through the installation of a plastic-white breakfast bar and counter, and a double-glazed glass panel. Not only do both furnishings serve as a visual barrier from any kitchen mess, the materials used in their construction blend into the quiet, yet warm ambiance of the apartment as well.

5 ROOM CONDO UNIT | **1,500** sq ft | **RENO PERIOD** 8 WEEKS | **HOME TO** 

SPACES

BALCONY
(right)

The juxtaposition of the balcony's wooden flooring and the white tiling of the living room creates a contrast that serves as a visual delineation of both areas. The difference in lighting used sets one apart from the other as well.

LIVING
(below)

Chic furniture and designer lighting fixtures come together to create a modern-day living room. Take note of the wall-mounted storage-cum-dining bench that serve as unobtrusive storage space.



Vertical and horizontal lines in the unit's overall design create a cohesive look. For instance, elongated pivot doors were used as they camouflaged well with the surrounding walls, in addition to extending the look and cohesiveness of the living room's layout. Integrated storage cabinets located around the house were also neatly stacked to further enhance the feeling of tidiness associated with modern interior designs.

"The (house's) design appears simple, but there were a number of requests we had to fulfil during the renovation process," says Derrick Lim, the principal designer at D'Marvel Scale and the consultant for this apartment's design, "In particular, the biggest challenge of this project was giving the unit a clutter-free appearance while providing a practical living environment for the owners."

Further complicating the task were room-size limitations which called for creative storage and furnishing solutions to satisfy the Ong family's needs. In order to fulfil the twin requirements of form and function, a variety of multipurpose fixtures and unique ideas had to be implemented according to the role and capacity of each chamber.

For instance, the junior bedroom of the Ong's eldest son had to contain a study table, queen-sized bed and a wardrobe; all in the finite amount of space available. Fortunately, Derrick was able to procure a foldable work-table which can be used as a compact workspace or full-sized desk. Additional space-saving measures include the fitting of a wall-mounted lamp and a ceiling fan, thus eliminating the need for space-consuming, standalone appliances.

A similar approach was taken for the Ong



SON'S BEDROOM (right)

The bedroom design blends into the general look of the unit with its matching ceiling lights and fittings. However, the room distinguishes itself with its textured, ribbed wall and custom fittings.

ENTERTAINMENT ROOM (below)

Neutral tones give the entertainment room a pleasant and calming feel. Coupled with a variety of entertainment devices, this makes it the perfect haven for rest and relaxation.



daughter's living quarters – a retracting side mirror was incorporated into the room's study desk which allowed it to double as a dresser.

Matching the unit's emphasis on simplicity, a set of basic, translucent blinds were installed to provide some measure of privacy for the room's female occupant.

Finally, the inclusion of an entertainment room in the house ensures a leisure-ready retreat for the Ongs. Outfitted with a piano, karaoke system and a personal computer, the room comes off as a well-equipped haven with its slate-grey and white colour scheme. Slit-like facades, which not only double as storage spaces, also help in concealing ceiling-mounted speakers while complementing the underlying design focus on modernity and functionality.



MATERIALS



BREAKFAST
BAR
Woodgrain laminate



FEATURE
WALL
Ribbed wall laminate

COLOUR CODED

Why decorate with a single scheme when you can play with a variety? This home is decked out in various colour palettes to bring out the personality of each space



FACT FILE

- SPACE** 5-room HDB flat unit
- SIZE** 1,280 square feet
- LOCATION** Tampines
- HOME TO** A married couple
- DESIGNER** Rayson Fong from Darwin Interior
- RENO PERIOD** Two months

Whether you're looking for a simple design update, or a complete home makeover, Darwin Interior has the expertise to meet your needs. Their designs are always "human-oriented", emphasising innovative ways of catering creative designs to fit your lifestyle. From conceptualisation to conclusion, the Darwin Interior team believes that customers are always the top priority.

> BEDROOM

Not many males can accept a pink-dominated scheme for their private lair, but the vibrancy of this bold shade earns a stamp of approval from the husband. They also wished to have a private space away from public view, so designer Rayson Fong constructed a walk-in wardrobe adjacent to the bed.



< LIVING

Inspired by their travels, the nomadic couple craved for a cafe-style interior to satiate their wanderlust. As such, Rayson brought the Parisian experience into the house by transforming the bay window area into a "shady pavement cafe". The living space is sectioned into two TV zones: a main family room donned in cheerful yellow, and a laidback entertainment room for movies and gatherings.



#STICKY SITUATION

Jazz up bare walls with fanciful decals. It's an easy way to induce a playful vibe, plus they're a cinch to switch out on a whim.



< KITCHEN

Since the homeowners don't really fancy tight spaces, Rayson decided to do away with obstructing walls and came up with an open-concept layout that lets in more natural light. In place of the walls is an L-shaped breakfast counter, adorned with decals and cotemporary chandeliers to serve as a cosy java-sipping spot.

< MUSIC ROOM

A splash of orange injects a funky vibe to this music room, featuring a drum set, electric guitars and a keyboard piano. This is where the music-loving couple would jam and mix new tunes. Rayson also factored in the requirement of built-in storage to keep the speakers, amplifiers and recording equipment neatly stowed away.

DARWIN INTERIOR

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Darwin Interior

NATURAL WONDER

This HDB flat has been stripped down and restored with an industrial aesthetic to reveal its raw charm and rugged personality



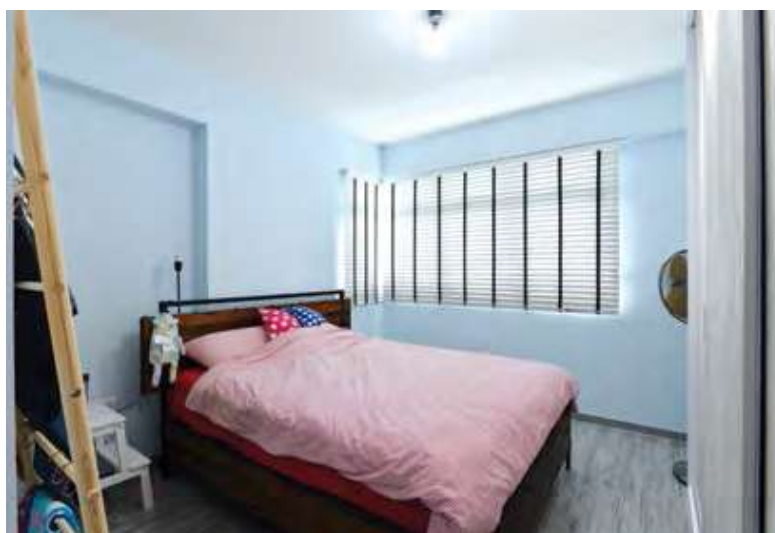
FACT FILE

- SPACE** 5-room BTO flat
- SIZE** 1,100 square feet
- LOCATION** Rivervale Link
- HOME TO** A married couple
- DESIGNER** Jake Yeoh from Z L Construction
- RENO PERIOD** Six weeks

Starting out in the late seventies, Z L Construction was once the subsidiary company of a family-run corporation. Focusing on residential upgrades and HDB renovations, the firm believes in offering sincerity, honesty and quality assurance to its clientele. By building their reputation through the years, they have grown to become a trusted name for homeowners plus commercial and industrial customers alike. Armed with a team of trusted professionals, Z L Construction aims to provide top-notch personable service and quality workmanship for all customers.

< LIVING

Very few homeowners tend to gravitate towards the bare bones look, but that was exactly what the couple here envisioned for their new home. Not one to comply to design norms, they requested to leave everything as raw as possible. Designer Jake Yeoh fulfilled it by utilising natural materials and filling the area with wooden furnishings. That's not to say colour took a back seat – Jake incorporated pops of pastel with some plush pieces as well. Vinyl flooring runs throughout the communal space, while weathered wood wallpaper gives it a bucolic distressed look.



< MASTER BEDROOM

The sleeping quarters takes on a muted palette with predominantly light wood finishes. A full-height wardrobe is erected in the same wood tone to blend in with the shade of the vinyl flooring.

▼ KITCHEN

Another key point in their design brief was to have a kitchen spacious enough to prepare meals for guests who come over frequently. As such, Jake hacked away the existing walls and built a custom kitchen island to allow friends to linger. He chose not to opt for ordinary carpentry, and went with hollow concrete blocks. It was quite a challenge as he wanted to achieve the look of uneven blocks, but the results were well worth the effort. Cabinet doors were replaced with aluminium mesh ones, and knobs were substituted by fire hinges.



#BARE
IT ALL

*Let those pipes show!
Black metallic pipes look
especially striking when
juxtaposed against a
neutral wall.*

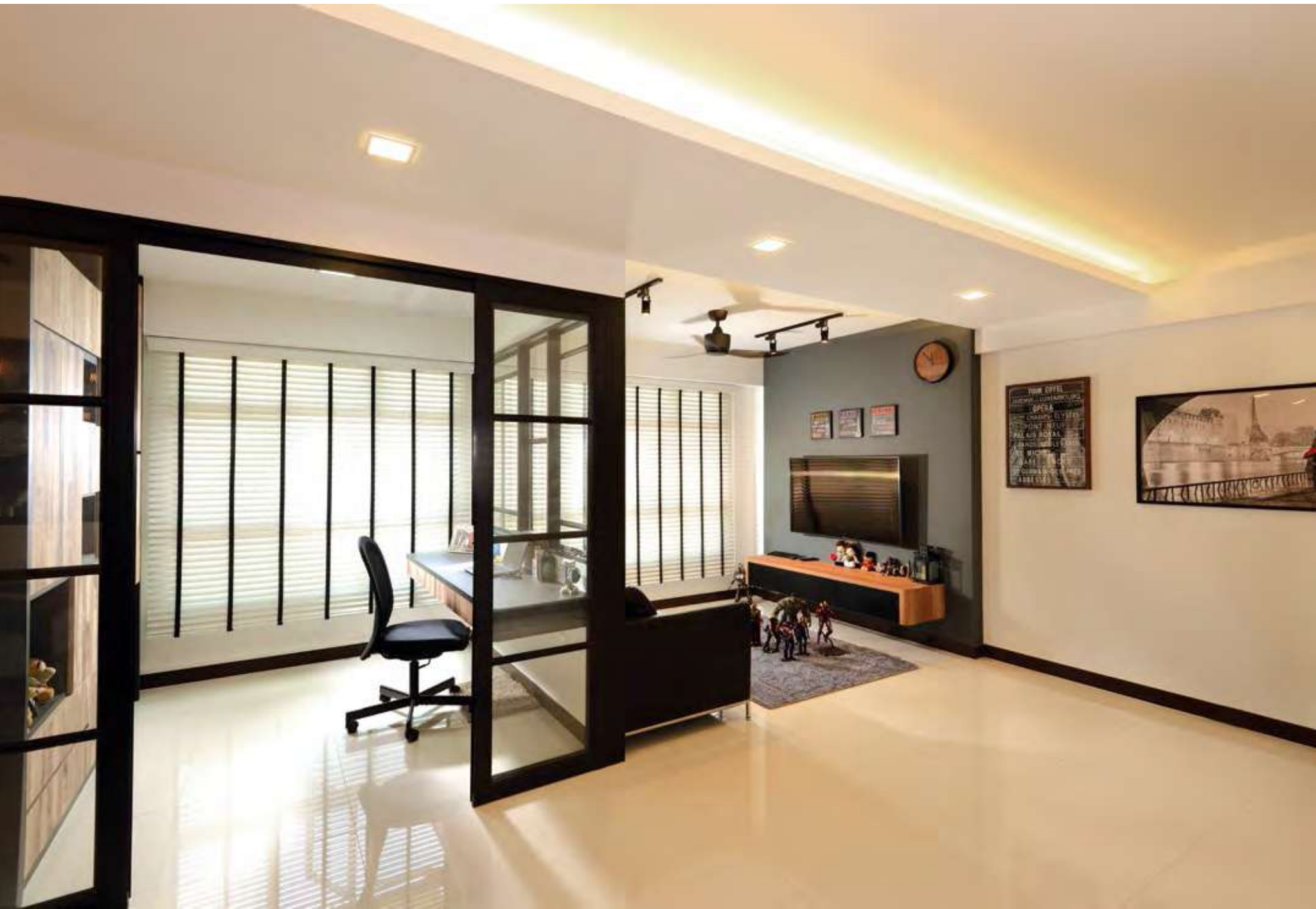


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COSY CHARM

A predominantly industrial-style love nest remains homey and inviting thanks to the use of wood surfaces and warm lighting



FACT FILE

- SPACE** 5-room BTO flat
- SIZE** 1,200 square feet
- LOCATION** Yishun
- HOME TO** A newlywed couple
- DESIGNER** May Chang from Meter Square
- RENO PERIOD** 5 weeks

With a diverse portfolio and highly experienced designers with more than 20 years of experience, Meter Square has all it takes to turn dream homes into reality. They aim to deliver properties that are functional as well. By understanding every client's needs, they wish to convert every owner into a house-proud individual. It's no wonder they have received many word-of-mouth referrals from satisfied clients.



< REC ROOM

Solely the preserve of the man of the house, the recreational room is set aside as a space to display his toy collection. The designer built a full-height display cabinet that is swathed in black laminate to better bring up the colours and details of the figurines.

v DINING

In order to maximise the use of space, the dining area was customised with a storage bench that not only provides ample seating, but also a place to store knick-knacks. A trio of factory-era pendant lights and a quirky decal pasted on the grey wall play to the industrial cafe-style.

> MASTER BEDROOM

The couple's sleeping quarters is kept simple and fuss-free to avoid complicating this restful space. It still retains the industrial flair seen in the rest of the home however, with a full-height, built-in wardrobe enveloped in a concrete-like laminate.

< LIVING + STUDY

A divider, constructed using a black aluminium frame with glass panels, was used in place of concrete walls to separate the study from the living area. The overall space now appears larger, yet there is still enough privacy when the room is in use. The main style in this home is industrial, which the husband loves, although the designer took care not to go too far with the design as the wife prefers a cosier ambiance. Wood surfaces and cove lighting help to provide a sense of warmth to the space.



#STYLE FACTOR

A stainless steel backsplash adds a touch of class and modernity to the utilitarian cooking space.



< KITCHEN

The countertop, made from Kompacplus and designed to look like woodgrain, tempers the harshness of the black trimming and the cabinets, which are swathed in a laminate that looks like concrete. A wine rack displays the husband's wine collection, while a glass panel above the countertop invites light into the otherwise dim cooking space.

METER SQUARE

1 Pegu Road #01-03, Singapore 328358

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Web: www.metersquare.com.sg

NATURE CALLS

There's nothing more down-to-earth than a well-designed home that reflects the family's green-thumbbed tendencies



FACT FILE

- SPACE** 3-bedroom condominium unit
- SIZE** 1,100 square feet
- LOCATION** Hedges Park
- HOME TO** A family of five
- DESIGNER** Xavier Wong from Rezt & Relax
- RENO PERIOD** Two weeks

Founded in 2001, Rezt & Relax is the brainchild of design partners Wilson Teh and John Foo. Their portfolio includes a wide spectrum of residential and commercial projects. The team at Rezt & Relax believes in offering creative design solutions and trend forecasts to help owners relax and unwind in the comfort of their homes.

< LIVING

For the amount of time spent from planning to execution, it's amazing what designer Xavier Wong managed to pull off within two weeks. Taking cues from nature, this cosy living space exudes rustic flair with its wood-themed interior and matching furnishings. The stucco brick wall makes for a gorgeous rugged backdrop, while adding texture to the room.

> DINING

A wooden display shelf flaunts a collection of books and decorative pieces, while lending a touch of sophistication to the space. Instead of filling up the area with plants, a fashionable way to introduce foliage is via a hanging mini garden. With a few custom-made racks to display the greens, an ordinary glass box pendant lamp can look stunning. Together with the wire mesh light panels, the dining area is beautified and illuminated.

> BEDROOM

The son's sleeping quarters takes us away from the woods and into the modern industrial territory. It wasn't possible to fit a bed, study and bookshelf into a tight space, so Xavier furnished it with a compact loft bed with plenty of space underneath for work, reading and storage.



▼ MASTER BEDROOM

Xavier decided to keep things simple in the master bedroom, decorating it with just a bed and a padded headboard in a neutral colour scheme. What stands out the most is the TV feature wall, made up of glossy laminate that lights up at the edges to conjure a futuristic mirror effect.



#RUG RULES

Patterned rugs not only provide a soft sensation underfoot, they also act as an eye-catching focal point in a room.



REZT & RELAX INTERIOR

No. 33 Ubi Avenue 3 #02-09, Vertex Tower B (Access Lift Lobby B), Singapore 408868
Tel: 6348 7787 Fax: 6348 7797 Email: customer@reztnrelax.com
Web: www.reztnrelax.com  [reztnrelax](https://www.instagram.com/reztnrelax)

SENSUAL APPEAL

Be greeted by a bold display of masculine wood tones, gritty textures and dramatic mood lighting in this abode



FACT FILE

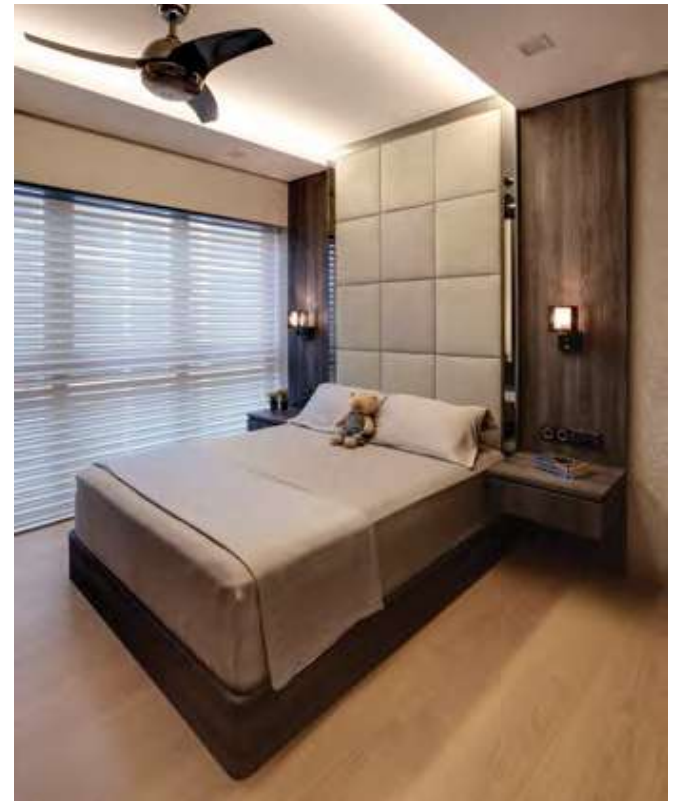
- SPACE** 3+1 Bedroom Executive Condominium unit
- SIZE** 1,345 square feet
- LOCATION** RiverParc Residence, Punggol
- HOME TO** A family of six
- DESIGNER** Annie Lim from The Orange Cube
- RENO PERIOD** Two months

Inspired and motivated to provide a complete package of services, The Orange Cube is equipped to take clients through design conception to building completion. As a result of this all-encompassing dedication, the company has amassed an impressive portfolio in both residential and commercial projects ever since its establishment 10 years ago. With their can-do attitude and enthusiasm in design and offering impeccable service, it's no wonder the company has gained a firm foothold in the interior design scene.



< BEDROOM

This is one bedroom that looks straight out of a magazine spread, and indeed so! Drawing inspiration from a magazine, the two daughters residing here requested Annie to recreate the style and that's what exactly what they got. Taking centre stage is the wooden bunk bed modelled as a unique box design. It not only maximises space, it also proves to be a cool focal point when done right. At a closer look, the beds come with a small turquoise headboard and a 3mm recess to prop up their little knick-knacks.



#NOOKS & CRANNIES

Apart from displaying ornaments, niches in the wall are great for setting up power points and hiding the bulk of your cables.

< LIVING

To demonstrate the homeowners' penchant for daring designs, designer Annie Lim anchored the living area in a cohesive palette of dark wood veneer carpentry and roughhewn grains under a sexy lighting scheme. What's interesting about the interior is that all the vertical surfaces are wallpapered, presenting a fitted and flushed appearance. Another noteworthy aspect is the TV feature wall, manually installed with a special material that looks coarse yet it's smooth to the touch.



^ MASTER BEDROOM

Despite being swathed in dark and inky shades, the master bedroom maintains a cosy vibe thanks to warm wood textures. Also adding to the comfort factor is the padded headboard, which really dresses up the space into a stylish sanctuary.

< KITCHEN

A lot of customising work has been done in this open-concept kitchen, from the built-in refrigerator to the altered island counter. To create visual interest, Annie integrated mirrored surfaces into the laminate island counter.

THE ORANGE CUBE PTE LTD

14 Arumugam Road, #01-03 Lion Building C, Singapore 409959
Tel: 6337 7277 **Fax:** 6337 7570 **Email:** enquiry@theorangecube.com
Web: theorangecube.com **f** The Orange Cube

BLACK & BOLD

Major design elements of the industrial style are mixed together with a clean slate to create a strong, definitive look for this bachelor's pad



FACT FILE

- SPACE** 5-room HDB flat unit
- SIZE** 1,184 square feet
- LOCATION** Hougang
- HOME TO** A bachelor
- DESIGNER** Danny Chong from Hue Concept
- RENO PERIOD** Eight weeks

Turning dream homes into reality, Hue Concept is all about delivering a Midas touch of design flair to abodes. Elevating style to another level, they also endeavor to create homes of functionality to better the lives of those living in it. So, if you're looking for style and substance, you can entrust your living space in the good hands of Hue Concept.



< STUDY

Making good use of the spacious communal space, designer Danny Chong from Hue Concept managed to create a full-fledged workstation. The bold design feature of exposed track lighting with custom-built pipe shelving lets this area stand out on its own.



#SHELF LIFE

These storage shelves are both functional and complementary to the overall design scheme.



< LIVING

The brick wall, which is made up of cultured stone, carves out a cosy feature spot for relaxing. Nostalgic-themed decor elements on the wall were then put together by the homeowner to complete the look.

< DINING

A distinctive visual point, the Tom Dixon-inspired pendant lamps shroud the dining room, while the dangling wires add further visual interest. This organised mess complements the other design elements in the shared communal space.



HUE CONCEPT INTERIOR DESIGN PTE LTD

No 33 Ubi Ave 3 #01-25, Vertex Building, Singapore 408868
Tel: 6636 7202 **Fax:** 6636 7205 **Email:** askhue@hueconcept.com
Web: www.hueconcept.com

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

Blessed with a lofty ceiling, a sleek blend of polished surfaces draws eyes upwards in this two-storey penthouse unit



Headed by their experienced design director Kelvin Toon, HC Interior has gone headlong to brandish their signature knack for creating dynamic living spaces into a multitude of projects. Synonymous with the talent for creating extraordinary spaces, their priority is set on designing a home tailored to your lifestyle and to enhance everyday living. Armed with a BCA-certified Builder license, they also undertake construction, alteration and addition and rebuilding works for landed properties. With a workforce of over 50 skilled workers, rest assured that your project will be well taken care of.

FACT FILE

- SPACE** 3-bedroom penthouse unit
- SIZE** 3,000 square feet including roof terrace
- LOCATION** Newton
- DESIGNER** Kelvin Toon from HC Interior
- RENO PERIOD** 3 months



#TRIPLE DUTY

Thanks to the generous worktop, the island serves as a multifunctional spot for dining, entertainment and work.

< LIVING

With extra-high windows that extend all the way to the ceiling, Kelvin had a lot of empty space to work with. Taking advantage of the elevated height, glossy surfaces on the dark laminate TV console and wall-mounted shelf further accentuate the vertical scale, making the house look larger than it is.

v GUESTROOM

The first-floor bedroom was converted into a hotel-worthy guestroom, whereas the attached powder room became a spa-like bath suite. Now laid with copper wall tiles, the bathroom exudes an understated opulent appeal that matches the sleeping quarter.

^ KITCHEN

A full-height cabinet divides the kitchen into two separate dry and wet zones. Despite the demarcation, Kelvin made sure the design uniformity still followed throughout. Most of the cabinetry is grounded in dark hues, with the only standout being the white marble island counter in the dry kitchen.



^ MASTER BATHROOM

On the second level, a spacious master bedroom is bathed in jet black. An airy bathroom resides within, in a space that was previously part of the roof terrace. Full-height mirrors here provide a visual boost in size, while louvered shutters give off a resort-inspired vibe.

HC INTERIOR PTE LTD

562 Balestier Road, Singapore 329878

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Web: www.hc-interior.com

HAVE *a seat*

Shopping for a sofa has never been this easy, and it's all thanks to Cosimo Gallery's wide range of customisable options and expert services

As the focal point in your living room, the sofa is one of the most important pieces of furniture at home. And purchasing one that meets your needs and fits your home decor is crucial, but it can be a daunting task. Thankfully, Cosimo Gallery provides you with a one-stop solution.

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Supported by a Malaysian factory with almost 40 years of experience, the furniture manufacturer and retailer carries a large selection of handcrafted recliners and incliner suites, sectional sofas and home theatre seats, among others. And there is no lack of style choices. From clean lines and simple silhouettes to the more traditional aesthetics of a button tufted sofa, there's something for every taste.



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Cosimo also provides no-obligation professional site measurements and consultations. What this means is that you're getting expert advice on how your sofa should be arranged, where it should go and what size best fits your room's layout. To top it off, all furniture from Cosimo come with a warranty period of up to 10 years! It just doesn't get any better than this.

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A CUT *above*

Food prep is a stress-free affair with high-quality WMF knives, which are manufactured using a combination of traditional craftsmanship and the latest technologies



The first step towards successful food preparation is having the perfect knife. And WMF has the right knife for the job, whether you need to peel, cut or fillet. What's so special about their knives is that they are created using performance cut blade technology, a technique only available at WMF based on a combination



of traditional forging methods and the latest innovation. The process begins with a cutler working along the entire length of each piece of steel with a hammer in a traditional way, and ending with a final sharpening process where a precision technique ensures that each blade is consistently sharpened to the ideal angle. What this means is that you're getting high-quality blades with long-lasting sharpness.

Regular quality controls are performed at the factory as quality is of the utmost importance to WMF. Knives are tested on a thick block of paper to see how deeply they can cut into it. The products are also subjected to inspection by controllers who check to see if the knives are well balanced and can sit comfortably in the hand. Any slight irregularity gets the knife sent back to production.

Because the knives are made using a special hardened blade steel, the blades produced are sturdy and flexible, and are both corrosion and acid resistant even in the most unfavourable conditions. All WMF knives are also dishwasher safe.

WMF knives are available at major departmental stores.



EASY *elegance*

Aerogaz's series of space-saving built-in appliances makes it easy to have a luxurious kitchen even if you're tight on space



The reality today is that homes are becoming smaller and kitchens are shrinking in size. But having a tiny kitchen doesn't mean you have to compromise on style. You can still afford to have a cooking space that, while small, is big on looks. Kitchen specialists Aerogaz is here to offer you a space-saving yet stylish solution with their latest series of built-in appliances, helping you achieve your dream kitchen no matter the square footage.

With the built-in series, you no longer need to cramp up your countertop space with standalone appliances. Everything can be compartmentalised neatly into your kitchen cabinets to offer you a chic, sleek design that would be the envy of your guests. Each unit is set at 45cm in height; small enough that it doesn't take up too much space, but big enough to fulfil all your home culinary requirements.

Aerogaz offers five different products under their built-in series: microwave oven, steamer, electric oven, wine chiller, and water dispenser, so you can pick and choose the units that you need for your kitchen.

And each unit is well designed. The steamer and ovens come with a double-glazed door that has an added layer of vacuum to protect you and your loved ones from potential kitchen accidents. The wine chiller is furnished with deluxe beech wood shelves, while the water dispenser discharges both hot and cold water and is compatible with either portable water or a filtered water system.

If there's only one thing we can say about this series, it's that they are affordable luxury. Built-in kitchen appliances are no longer the preserve of the rich because Aerogaz has made them so affordable. The price ranges from \$600 for each unit, making the dream of having an extravagant kitchen ever so attainable.



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p.126!



SQUAREROOMS HOME SEARCH 2015

MY RENO · MY STYLE · MY HOME

This year, SquareRooms set out to find our favourite home in Singapore. After four months and two rounds of short listing, we present to you our top three picks.

ABOUT OUR JUDGES:

Jolene Limuco,
Deputy Editor of SquareRooms
Jolene is part of the team at SquareRooms, a monthly interior magazine that compiles a visual feast of gorgeous living spaces and concepts to help inspire readers to build a better home.



Lim Ai Tiong
Principal Architect and Interior Designer of Lim Ai Tiong Design
Lim Ai Tiong Design is an award winning boutique-size architecture and interior design firm providing a complete scope of professional design services and project management for both residential and commercial projects.



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WINNER

VICTOR SEAH
CHANG HONG



“This home is a modern interior with a deconstructed angular twist. I like the fact that there is angular essence, which is not easy to design at every space, creating a very consistent concept.”

Ai Tong

THE WINNER RECEIVES
OVER \$3,600 WORTH OF
PRODUCTS FROM ARISTON,
BIO-HOME, HAUS OF EGG3,
SONOS AND WMF

1st
RUNNER-UP
 JAMES KENNETH
 KOH HENG LAI



THE 1ST RUNNER-UP RECEIVES
 OVER \$2,800 WORTH OF
 PRODUCTS FROM ARISTON,
 BIO-HOME, HAUS OF EGG3,
 SONOS AND WMF

*“We liked that this home is a
 reflection of the homeowner’s
 exuberant personality.
 While the use of a rich colour
 palette is daring, it doesn’t
 feel uncomfortable. On the
 contrary, the home feels
 spacious and inviting.”*
 Jolene



2nd
RUNNER-UP
 JACQUELINE
 CHUA LI ZHI

*“A nice modern interior with
 slight industrial and retro
 feel. The industrial and retro
 looking separation grilles and
 exposed conduit further reinforce
 the concept.”*
 Ai Tiong



THE 2ND RUNNER-UP
 RECEIVES OVER \$2,400
 WORTH OF PRODUCTS
 FROM ARISTON, BIO-
 HOME, HAUS OF EGG3,
 SONOS AND WMF

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www.ecochic.com.au

Egg3

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| ☐ Space planning | ☐ Flooring | ☐ Paint | ☐ Laminates/other surfaces | ☐ Entertainment appliances |
| ☐ Soft furnishings | ☐ Furniture | ☐ Sanitary wares | ☐ Kitchen appliances | |

Which are your trusted brands for these home products: (Please fill in every section)

Flooring: _____	Paint: _____
Furniture: _____	Home accessories: _____
Kitchen appliances: _____	Entertainment appliances: _____
Bathroom sanitary wares: _____	Online retailers/others: _____

What are your reason/s for buying from these brands?

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ Design | ☐ Price | ☐ Free delivery | ☐ Reliability | ☐ Customer service |
| ☐ Variety | ☐ Quality | | | |

Which section/s do you like best in SquareRooms?

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ HOT | ☐ Style | ☐ Style+ | ☐ Solutions | ☐ Shop |
| ☐ Simple | ☐ Spaces | ☐ Surface | ☐ Savvy | ☐ Small Talk |
| ☐ ProAds | ☐ Shortcut | | | |

Personal Details:

Name _____	Age _____
Title *(Mr/Mrs/Mdm/Ms) _____	
I/C No. _____	Occupation _____
Phone (Home) _____	(Mobile) _____
Email _____	

Home Details:

☐ Current Home	☐ Recently Purchased (New)	☐ Recently Purchased (Resale)
Home Address _____		Postal Code _____
Estimated Budget _____		
No. of Adult Occupants _____		
Expected Date of Key Collection (if Appropriate) _____		Children (if any) _____

- Do you require renovation loans? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, would you like to have a personal banker advise you on renovation loan matters? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Upon completion of this form, you are entitled to a free interior design plan from our interior design associates. Fax or email this form together with your floor plan to:

<Email subject header> **SquareRooms 'Let's Talk'**

Email: info@key-editions.com Fax: 6445 3373

VISIT: bit.do/SquareRoomsID

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HOLDING STATION

An entryway gets interesting with a series of containers mounted on the wall

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTO Madam Stoltz

Your entryway doesn't have to be boring. Deck out your wall with various vessels – tins, planters and buckets – and don't be afraid to mix shapes, styles or sizes. Change things up by pairing the polished look of brass with rustic surfaces. We also love how practical this is – the containers hold knick-knacks, grow plants and even serve as a light fixture!



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